



LIKE A LOCAL

Accra

Young, fun and full of creative spirit, the district of Osu is the coolest corner of the Ghanaian capital. Here are some of the neighbourhood's best hangouts

Feasts & flavours

Many travellers to the Ghanaian capital seek out the historic forts in and around Jamestown, but head a little further east and a more youthful side to the city reveals itself. Spilling out either side of Oxford Street, the neighbourhood of Osu has become a magnet for up-and-coming fashion designers, trendy eateries and boutiques.

Communal workspace-cafe **KUKUN** is a prime example of Osu's metamorphosis into the city's coolest quarter. The British owner has added nods to her roots with bottles of HP sauce set on the tables and a menu that offers full English breakfasts, porridge and bacon baps. Accra's hipsters come here for the coffee and freshly made smoothies — and the after-work cocktails prove a popular choice, too. The space is also a living gallery, with artworks by locals for sale. kukun.co

For a taste of the region's cuisine, be sure to book a table at **BUKA**. This soul food restaurant, renowned for its peppered snails and Nana's special goat soup, has been a cornerstone of Accra's food scene for more than 15 years. It was founded by Audrey Selormey in 2003 and serves up a menu of dishes from Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Togo and Nigeria. Don't fancy the snails? Go for another of the West African-inspired eats, such as grilled tilapia, grilled guinea fowl or fufu, a starchy, dough-like dish traditionally made with cassava. bukarestaurant.com

Come evening, head down to the **OSU NIGHT MARKET** spread along Basel Street. The district was once home to the traditional Ga fishing communities, and fishermen from adjoining neighbourhoods still dish up their daily catch of crab, oyster, octopus and tilapia from wooden shacks.

IMAGES: LOLA AKINMADE ÅKERSTRÖM

INSIDER'S TIP

Arty types should make a beeline for Gallery 1957 for some of the biggest and best contemporary exhibitions in the city. gallery1957.com

Raise a glass

Ask anyone in Osu what their favourite bar is and you're likely to get one response: **BLOOM BAR**. The venue opened last year and has already proved a hit with the Accrans, who flock here for classic cocktails taken on the fairy light-strung terrace. It's the place to sip and be seen. facebook.com/bloombargh

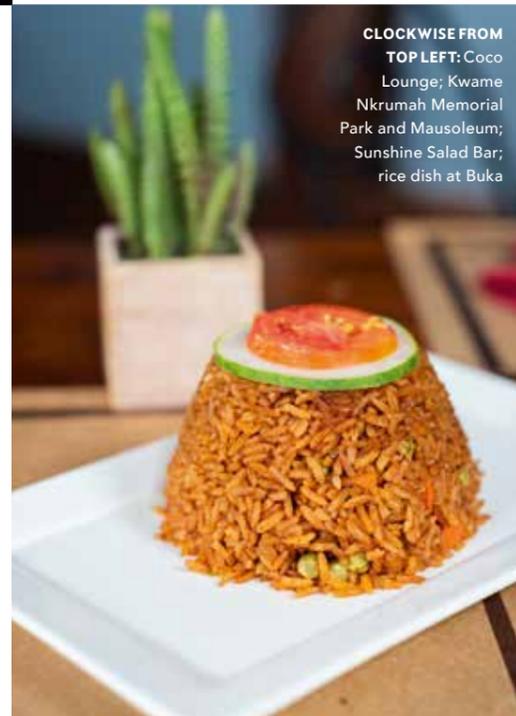
A favourite spot among the city slickers is the more intimate **FIREFLY** lounge. It's a low-lit, date-night kind of hangout, but the tempo is upped on Fridays and Saturday nights when the tunes get everyone on their feet. Swing by after 10pm to really get your groove on.

Bring yourself back to life at the glamorous **COCO LOUNGE**, a bright and airy loft-style space dominated by Nana Anoff sculptures and fetching feathery chandeliers. As well as excellent juices, the menu also includes European-style all-day breakfast, juicy burgers, wood-fired pizzas and tempting cocktails. Thursday is tequila night and live DJs perform on Friday nights. yoloxperiences.com

EMMA THOMSON



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Coco Lounge; Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and Mausoleum; Sunshine Salad Bar; rice dish at Buka



STEFANIA MANFREDA'S

top hangouts



SUNSHINE SALAD BAR

I love my salads and this cafe has the largest selection in the city — plus, the portions are huge. It also serves wraps, sandwiches and curries, but I usually go for the Kung Fu Panda tofu salad and a freshly made smoothie. sunshinesaladbar.com

ASABEA'S KITCHEN

We Ghanaians are all brought up on fufu, so to get my fix I always go here. It's a clean, no-frills hangout, the service is quick (ideal for when I'm busy at the shop) and the food is simple and filling. If you want to eat local, head here. Just off Troas Street, near Bloom Bar

DUNCAN'S

With its rough yellow paint job and tables and chairs scattered outside, Duncan's might not look much, but we locals always visit this chop bar because the fresh grilled tilapia and banku are spot on — and cheap. Asafoatsé Tempong Street

DJANGO BAR

This 'pub' — a pub that morphs into a club — was set up by Ghanaian rapper Reggie Rockstone. Located behind the Japanese embassy, it's a blue-lit Miami-style schmoozing spot, but I particularly like their live music and comedy evenings. Osu Avenue Extension

TWIST

Open until 6am on weekends, this club is where everyone ends their evenings. The combination of Afrobeat and hip-hop music gets everyone on their feet. Ndanbingi Sithole Road

Stefania Manfreda is the founder of Lokko House, an establishment that promotes and cultivates Accra's creative scene. lokkohouse.com