

## Coffee Shops

A coffeehouse, or coffee shop, is an establishment that primarily serves coffee. Some coffeehouses may serve cold drinks such as iced coffee and iced tea. A coffeehouse may also serve food such as light snacks, sandwiches, muffins or pastries. Coffeehouses range from owner-operated small businesses to large multinational corporations. Some coffeehouse chains operate on a franchise business model, with numerous branches across various countries around the world.

The first coffeehouses appeared in the Islamic world, in Mecca, in the 15th century, then spread to the Ottoman Empire's capital of Istanbul in the 16th century. Coffeehouses became popular meeting places where people gathered to drink coffee, have conversations, play board games such as chess and backgammon, listen to stories and music, and discuss news and politics. They became known as "schools of wisdom" for the type of clientele they attracted, and their free and frank discourse.

Coffeehouses in the United States arose from the espresso- and pastry-centered Italian coffeehouses of the Italian American immigrant communities in major U.S. cities, notably New York City's Little Italy and Greenwich Village, Boston's North End, and San Francisco's North Beach. From the late 1950s onward, coffeehouses also served as a venue for entertainment, most commonly folk performers during the American folk music revival. Both Greenwich Village and North Beach became major haunts of the Beats, who were highly identified with these coffeehouses.

The political nature of much of 1960s folk music made the music a natural tie-in with coffeehouses with their association with political action. A number of well-known performers like Joan Baez and Bob Dylan began their careers performing in coffeehouses. Seattle became known for its thriving countercultural coffeehouse scene;

the Starbucks chain later standardized and mainstreamed this espresso bar model.

However, the coffee shops we're used to, and those we find advertised on our covers, are a far cry from Beatnik hangouts. They're much more akin to small cafes, and 'entertainment', if available at all, was the jukebox against the far wall.

Ah, I remember them well, and...coffee refills were often free! In some coffee shops, the *coffee* might even be free...with your meal., of course.

Yet another memory to add to the 'Good 'ol Days'

