

# Area Focus: Hoxton, N1 By Jo Caird

**WHY?** Trendy shops, bars, restaurants and art galleries, plus a pretty garden square.

**WHEN?** The area only really gets going around lunchtime, so visit in the afternoon, or arrive in the evening to join the party crowd.

## DESIGNER TRENDS

One of the first fashion boutiques in Hoxton, **1 Start London** stocks a wide range of quirky and original men's and womenswear brands, from A.P.C. to Zoe Gordon.

**44-44 Rivington Street, EC2A 3QP.** ☎ 020 7729 3334.  
[start-london.com](http://start-london.com)



## GREEN SPACE

**2 Hoxton Square** dates back to the 17th century, when the area was home to wealthy people seeking a greener alternative to big city life. This pleasant park is surrounded by bars, cafés, galleries and offices, with local workers taking time out in the square at lunchtimes and after work.

## A TASTE OF VIETNAM

The area is home to a large Vietnamese community following immigration after the end of the Vietnam War. As a result, Hoxton is full of fantastic Vietnamese eateries, including the wonderful

**3 Cay Tre**, where you can enjoy an innovative menu of noodle and rice dishes, plus fresh seafood and succulent meats.  
**301 Old Street, EC1V 9LA.**



☎ 020 7729 8662.  
[vietnamesekitchen.co.uk](http://vietnamesekitchen.co.uk)



## ROLL UP!

**4 Circus Space**, which is based in a magnificent former power station, is one of the UK's leading circus schools. Watch some of the amazing students in action at the school's degree show on **20-23 Mar**. Or have a go yourself, on a *Circus Experience Day* – try your hand at the trapeze, acrobatic balancing, tightwire walking and juggling (**2, 9, 23 Mar**).

**Coronet Street, N1 6HD.**  
 ☎ 020 7613 4141.  
[thecircusspace.co.uk](http://thecircusspace.co.uk)



## MELODY MAKER

Hoxton is one of the hottest places to go out in London, particularly if you're into live music. Cocktail lovers are also well looked after and DJs work their magic at bars and clubs until the early hours. Many bars and live music venues also serve good food. **5 Zigfrid Von Underbelly**, which occupies a prime position on Hoxton Square, hosts regular house, techno and electro nights and even a Jukebox Disco, where you get to choose the tunes. There's also an exciting programme of live gigs by up-and-coming and established bands.

Food is served until 23.30 and brunch is available at the weekend.

**11 Hoxton Square, N1 6NU.**  
 ☎ 020 613 1988.  
[zigfrid.com](http://zigfrid.com)



## LOCAL HISTORY

The earliest recorded mention of Hoxton is in the *Domesday Book* of 1086, where it appears as Hogesdon (meaning 'farm'). From open fields, the area became a wealthy suburb of the City Of London, before becoming a dirty, noisy industrial district in the Victorian era. As industry declined after the Second World War, the area continued to adapt, attracting artists looking for cheap workshops in the 1980s. This artistic legacy can be found in Hoxton's many small galleries and rich tradition of street art (pictured).



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