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60 of the World's Great Places



These are the places we remember most vividly, the places where serendipitous things happen, the places we tell stories about. They are decidedly local, but can also absorb a fair amount of tourism with out losing the qualities that make them great. Though none of these places could be replicated anywhere else, there is an infinite amount we can learn from each one.

Open a full profile for each [Great Public Space](#) by clicking on their respective titles! Help fill in details for the profiles by filling in our [Nomination Page](#) or leaving comments.

Inspired by this list, Jay Walljasper recently wrote for Ode Magazine on [Our place in the world](#) - in praise of streets, parks, squares, coffeeshops, and other beloved hang-outs...



[Al-Azhar Park](#)

Cairo, Egypt

A new hilltop park in the midst of one of Cairo's most interesting neighborhoods.



[Art Street](#)

Taichung County, Taiwan

A shopping street that makes excellent use of traffic calming measures to keep pedestrians happy.



[Arts Centre](#)

Christchurch, New Zealand

An arts district rich in Gothic architecture featuring theatres, cinemas, galleries, crafts shops, cafes and weekend markets.

[Asafra Beach](#)

Alexandria, Egypt

"Alexandria is Asafra", insist locals about this beach that runs parallel to the city's main street.

[STREETS](#)[MARKETS](#)[PARKS](#)[BUILDINGS](#)[NEIGHBORHOODS](#)[HALL OF SHAME](#)[NEW NOMINATIONS](#)

Here's a few comments people have made about some of these Great Public Spaces:

"Krakow's Square is the most beautiful in Europe. If St. Marks is Europe's drawing room then Rynek Glowny is its great hall."

[Rynek Glowny, Krakow](#)

"The Prado is like a second living room."

[The Prado, Havana, Cuba](#)

"The architecture of local houses and buildings is a feast for the eyes."

[Ponce, Puerto Rico](#)

"Adams Morgan has a unique and organic feeling of 'realness.' "

[Adams Morgan, Washington, DC](#)

[What Makes a Successful Place?](#)

[Why Public Spaces](#)



Fail

Benefits of Places

Great Parks/Great Cities Awards

City Commentaries: London, Barcelona, Paris

World-Renowned Places

Great Community Places



Balboa Park

San Diego, California, USA

Splendid city park and home of the internationally-known San Diego Zoo.



Bleeker Street

New York City, USA

The capital of American Bohemia, this street filled fascinating small shops and cafes is a pleasure to stroll.



PPS Products

Our library of books and videos can help you with everything from enlivening your local park, to setting up a farmers market, to improving your neighborhood streets!



Cai Rang Floating Market

Can Tho, Vietnam

Just like it sounds, vendors sell food, flowers and more from their boats on the Mekong River.



Cathedral of Notre Dame

Paris, France

Not just stunning Gothic architecture, but marvelous park, plaza and gardens for people to gather.



Campo Santa Margherita

Venice, Italy

This neighborhood square is a slice of the real Italy amid all the tourist shrines.



Carmel Market

Tel Aviv, Israel

It remains a popular place in a city fearful of public gatherings.

**Chandni Chowk**

Old Delhi, India

An amazing array of attractions on a street that is the spine of one of the liveliest districts in the world.

**Charles Bridge**

Prague, Czech Republic

A beloved gathering point that offers great views of the city and a scene in itself.

**Circular Quay**

Sydney, Australia

A great place to watch boats, sunsets, and an even better place to watch people—also home to the Sydney Opera House.

**Country Club Plaza**

Kansas City, Missouri, USA

The world's first (1922) and probably best shopping center built to accommodate the auto.

**Covent Gardens**

London

An open market hall surrounded by popular pedestrian streets, Covent Gardens is one of the world's leading venue for street performers.

**Fez Souk**

Fez, Morocco

Souks (street markets) are the classic form of public space throughout the Arab World. The Fez souk is a glorious maze that you'll be delighted to

become lost in.

**French Quarter**

New Orleans, USA

Colonial Spanish architecture, great New Orleans food and jazz, plus the highest concentration of colorful characters in the whole USA

**Gamla Stan**

Stockholm, Sweden

Stockholm's charming old town with some streets so narrow some broad-shouldered people need to walk sideways.

**Gouda Historic Center**

Gouda, Netherlands

A charming beyond-belief pedestrian district of squares, canals, bridges, guild houses, and small shops.

**Grand Central Station**

New York, USA

A palace of a train station— the number one meeting place in North America.

**Grand Square**

Krakow, Poland

The largest medieval square in Europe—and many say the loveliest—it's been the hub of local life since the 13th Century.

**Granville Island**

Vancouver, Canada

An industrial wasteland revived by parks, arts centres and a fabulous public market.



Great Mosque of Djenne

Djenne, Mali

An inspiring 1907 mosque hosts a multi-ethnic market in the oldest known city in sub-Saharan Africa.



Greenmarket Square

Cape Town, South Africa

A cobblestone square in the center of Cape Town where browsers comb through displays of traditional African crafts, curios and clothes.



High Park Children's Garden

Toronto, Canada

A modest organic garden that is the pride of the local neighborhood



Imam Square

Isfahan, Iran

One of the most breathtaking squares in the world.



Kyojima

Tokyo, Japan

An old-fashioned neighborhood with a deep sense of community and very walkable environs.



Las Ramblas

Barcelona, Spain

A series of pedestrian boulevards that came to life in the post-Franco era.

Luxembourg Gardens

Paris, France



A small square with so much to do—the gold standard by which to measure all urban parks.



Mbare Market

Harare, Zimbabwe

You can find it all here—vegetables, plumbing supplies, thumb pianos, ceremonial herbs.



Mercado del Puerto

Montevideo, Uruguay

A beloved market hall specializing in many varieties of meats.



Moscow Subway

Moscow, Russia

Built in the 1930s to showcase the glory of Soviet Communism, the stations are works of art with marble, chandeliers, and stunning art deco designs.

The system is still the transportation lifeblood of the city.



Muslim Quarter

Kunming, China

One of the many threatened Muslim districts throughout China, this corridor is the cultural and economic crossroads of the city.



Temple Night Market

Kowloon, Hong Kong, China

A mile of practically anything you'd ever want to buy.

O'Connell Street

Ennis, Ireland



A world-class main street that teems with activity all hours of the day.



Ortaköy Square

Istanbul, Turkey

A small waterfront square on the Bosphorus recently rehabilitated with numerous cafés, restaurants, art galleries and artisan shops.



Plaza Julio Cortazar

Buenos Aires, Argentina

A square surrounded by cafes and art galleries in one of the hippest neighborhoods in the world.



Pearl District

Portland, Oregon

An almost new neighborhood on vacant land downtown that shows we can still build great neighborhoods.



Petaling Street

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The bustling heart of Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown.



The Plateau

Montreal, Canada

A quaint working-class quarter transformed into the artistic and cultural hotbed of Quebec.

Piazza del Campo

Sienna, Italy

An artistic triumph of Renaissance architecture, and one of the first squares in Europe to chase



the cars out.

Platia Kapodistriou

Nafplio, Greece

This is the place for dinner, a soccer match or , most importantly, an after-dinner stroll to see everyone in town and catch up on the gossip.



Plaza de Armas

Cuzco, Peru

The delightful historical center of charming city.



Plaza de la Constitution de Oaxaca

Oaxaca, Mexico

A 500-year-old square that is the heart of this much-loved city.



Ponce City Center

Ponce, Puerto Rico

A graciously preserved showcase of Caribbean culture.



Prado

Havana, Cuba

A marvelous 10-block promenade with terrazzo paving and plenty of shade in Old Havana.

Royal Mile

Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

A cobblestone road leading up to Edinburgh Castle surrounded by a fascinating maze of alleys.



The Ridge

Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India

A beautiful central square overlooking the city and looking out on the Himalayas.



Spanish Steps Rome, Italy

The place to see and be seen in the Eternal City.



Staples Street Bus Station

Corpus Christi, Texas, USA

A modest bus transfer centre that brought downtown life back to this small city.



Stone Town

Zanzibar, Tanzania

This district is home to the Fordhani waterfront market, where people have been gathering for generations to eat fish fresh off the boat.



Taos Pueblo

Taos, New Mexico, USA

A high-rise adobe town that's been home to Native Americans since at least the 1500s.

Tamansari Water Castle

Yogyakarta Indonesia

An 18th century water garden that's the centerpiece of a dynamic neighborhood.

**Theatro Municipal**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A beloved opera house opens onto a city square as lively and diverse as Rio itself.

**Tivoli Gardens**

Copenhagen, Denmark

The never equaled ancestor of all theme parks, it has been a source of pleasure to happy visitors since 1843.

**Trg Bana Jelacica**

Zagreb, Croatia

This vibrant square, adjacent to the wonderful Dolac Market, is the center of action in Croatia's greatly underrated capital city.

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Washington, DC, USA

A rare oasis of reflection and emotion in a harried world.

**Viktualienmarkt**

Munich, Germany

An open air markets with one of the world's great beer gardens.

**Waterlooplein**

Amsterdam, Netherlands



A world-class flea market.



Westhafen Subway Station

Berlin, Germany

The scene of an international public art project devoted to human rights.

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