

SPOTLIGHT

# Bookshop cafes

FOR COFFEE-LOVING BIBLIOPHILES, BOOKSHOP CAFES ARE A DREAM COMBINATION – SOMEWHERE TO CURL UP WITH AN ENGROSSING NOVEL, A LATTE AND A PIECE OF CAKE. HERE ARE FIVE OF THE UK'S BEST



## 1 The London Review Bookshop, London

Once the stomping ground of the Bloomsbury Set, the Bloomsbury neighbourhood is today home to one of the capital's most beloved bookstores. Here, you can browse more than 20,000 titles, ranging from contemporary fiction to current affairs. Then, get stuck into your purchase — and maybe a slice of blackcurrant hibiscus cake — at the adjoining tearoom, where all bakes are lovingly handmade by owner Terry Glover. [londonreviewbookshop.co.uk](http://londonreviewbookshop.co.uk)

## 2 The Aberfeldy Watermill, Aberfeldy

Housed in a Grade A-listed former oatmeal mill deep in the Scottish Highlands, the three-storey Aberfeldy Watermill is a bookstore, design shop, art gallery and cafe rolled into one. You'll find a wide range of titles, best savoured at the charming cafe, which serves up light bites, including comforting soups, rustic sandwiches and homemade cakes. [aberfeldywatermill.com](http://aberfeldywatermill.com)

## 3 The Hours Cafe & Bookshop, Brecon

It's impossible to miss this three-storey Tudor building on one of the oldest streets in Brecon, thanks to its wonderfully off-kilter exterior. Step inside to find a tightly curated selection of books — fiction, poetry, art, crime and more — as well as an award-winning cafe that celebrates local produce. Munch on a Welsh ham and chutney sandwich or opt for a thirst-quenching G&T made using Dà Mhile gin. [thehoursbrecon.co.uk](http://thehoursbrecon.co.uk)

## 4 White Rose Book Cafe, Thirsk

This family-run bookstore in the North Yorkshire market town of Thirsk is a great spot for a light lunch, with its large cafe and garden terrace. On offer are soups, sandwiches and pastries made with local and seasonal produce; the White Rose Savoury Tea — a toasted cheese scone accompanied by wensleydale cheese, chutney and a pot of Yorkshire tea — is a must-try. [whiterosebooks.co.uk](http://whiterosebooks.co.uk)

## 5 Scarthin Books, Cromford

Tucked away in the village of Cromford, in Derbyshire, this decades-old institution has all manner of books — from fresh-off-the-press novels to dusty antiquarian tomes — crammed onto its many shelves. While away a couple of hours in its cosy reading room or grab a bite at its old-school cafe, which offers several vegan and gluten-free options. Try the savoury hominy pie, a firm favourite among loyal customers. [scarthinbooks.com](http://scarthinbooks.com)

From top: The London Review Cake Shop; soup and sandwiches at The Aberfeldy Watermill; Scarthin Books