

SPOTLIGHT

# American diners

A BELOVED INSTITUTION ACROSS THE US, DINERS HAVE BEEN SERVING CLASSIC COMFORT FOOD SINCE THE EARLY 1900S. WE PICK FIVE UK OPTIONS FOR A TASTE OF AMERICANA



## 1 Billy Bob's Parlour, Skipton

This cheery diner might be located deep in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales, but it's immensely popular, particularly with families. It's both child- and dog-friendly, and there's an enormous play area out front. Once you've finished snapping photos of the kitsch interiors, sink your teeth into a mushroom Swiss burger or enjoy a refreshing glass of sarsaparilla from the restored 1940s soda fountain. [billybobsparlour.com](http://billybobsparlour.com)

## 2 The City Cafe, Edinburgh

By day, this buzzy spot just off the Royal Mile fashions itself as an old-school US diner, complete with vintage posters, neon signs, jukeboxes and a life-size statue of Elvis. It's especially popular for its hearty all-day breakfast offerings, including vanilla pancakes and eggs florentine. Come nightfall, it's a lively bar with DJ sets on Fridays and Saturdays. [thecitycafe.co.uk](http://thecitycafe.co.uk)



## 3 Camden Diner, London

This venue's neon-lit frontage looks like something you'd spot while on a Vegas highway — not a busy street in Camden. Inside the recently revamped space, discover the hallmarks of a quintessential American diner: think glossy leatherette booths, colourful posters and a menu featuring plenty of burgers and hot dogs. Save space for the indulgent Snickers milkshake: chock-full of chocolate, toffee sauce, Nutella, peanut butter and ice cream. [camdendiner.com](http://camdendiner.com)

## 4 Bobby Jo's Diner, Southend-on-Sea

Overlooking the Southend seafront, this atmospheric 1950s-style diner serves up nostalgic charm in spades. Settle into one of the turquoise booths and get ordering: the menu runs the gamut from American classics like sloppy burgers and chilli cheese dogs to the decidedly British scampi and chips. There's also a tempting array of thick shakes to slurp on, with flavours like bubblegum and banoffee. [bobbyjos.co.uk](http://bobbyjos.co.uk)

## 5 Electric Diner, London

With its exposed brick walls, grungy lighting and dark wood counter, this Notting Hill hangout offers a stylish take on the classic diner. The menu is also a touch more sophisticated — expect to see classics like milkshakes and cheeseburgers, but also steak tartare with sourdough and blackened sea bass with cucumber, fennel and lime. Pair your meal with the Almost Naked & Famous — a heady cocktail of pisco, Aperol, green chartreuse, passionfruit and lime. [electricdiner.com](http://electricdiner.com)



From top: Billy Bob's Parlour; The City Cafe; Electric Diner