

THE **vibe** list

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ABUJA.
BY DAY, NIGHT, MOOD & APPETITE



A Bar called Paper

Paper is an absolute vibe, almost too trendy. From its world-famous photo booth in the lady's bathroom to its luxury parties, it's a smaller space than most. However, Paper just opened its weekend space called Upstairs @ Paper. It is located in high-brow Maitama and is famous for its female DJ's. Check out the whisky sour, and please dress up as you might bump into the good and the great of Abuja. We recommend.

<http://www.instagram.com/abarcalledpaper>

Caesars

Nestled discreetly in Wuse 2, Caesars offers dining more than drinks and has a very chic facade with amazing signage. Blink and you'll miss the turning so drive slowly. Caesars is great for birthdays and small gatherings.

https://www.instagram.com/caesars_restaurant



Newtons

Set in very well-designed real estate, Newtons offers internal and external seating with the restaurant at the heart of the experience. Shisha and drinks are available for the more casual guest.

<https://www.instagram.com/newtonsrestaurantandbar>

Tehrogo

The name is derived from a combination of Tehran and Togo: an ode to the owners who have clearly put a lot of work into this ultra chic restaurant bar, with more focus on the bar. The music is low volume and incredibly diverse. Tehrogo also boasts possibly the best shisha in Abuja with ambience to match.

<https://www.instagram.com/tehrogo>



The Living Room

Living room is a work of art. A boutique cafe designed as part of the yellow door air bnb franchise. Its literally a living room. Absolutely off the beaten path. We recommend for ingenuity and their superb shrimp rice!

https://www.instagram.com/livingroomabj/?utm_medium=copy_link



Honey

A fairly recent entrant to Abujas bustling nightlife; Honey is actually a pretty sweet spot! Catering to a younger crowd, we love the honey combed seating arrangements for dining while the cocktails and bottles flow on the balcony. Located on the top floor, it also offers very nice evening views . Try the Devil's Advocate cocktail and thank us later.

<https://www.instagram.com/honeyabuja>

Council

Located smack dab in the middle of Abuja, Council gets its name from the British Council which used to be located there. It also enjoys the vast expertise of its founders who have over 2 decades of experience in the game. Once you get up the stairs its absolutely the place to see and be seen in . Open from morning, they serve a gloriously full menu and once the sun sets, the views and people make it a 'must visit' for the cities elite.

<https://www.instagram.com/thecouncilabuja/?hl=en>



Tiki Cultures

With very day party vibes, Tiki is part of a bigger hospitality group and has regularly themed nights. Theres even a pool smack dab in the middle if you fancy a swim with drinks and a gorgeous umbrella runway as you walk up. Makes for amazing photos. With a full bar thats open early and closes late, whats not to like?! Slightly off the beaten path but we think the trip is well worth it.

<https://www.instagram.com/tikicultures>

Ketchup

First off we love the name! Ketchup is an open air bar with amazing food. Capital A. They go heavy on Fridays and also a rousing karaoke night on Sundays. Its got that 'everyone knows your name' feel about it and you may go for an hour but end up spending 2! Its physically small but the vibe is massive. Make sure to eat!

<https://www.instagram.com/ketchupcafeabuja>



Traffic

An Abuja mainstay, Traffic actually has two locations, one of which boasts a boutique hotel. Absolutely famed for their food which offers a mix of cuisines, you must try the Traffic Rice. This is love at first spoonful! They also offer a busy Friday night at their Gana street location and a more discreet and chill night out at the Missouri street location.

<https://www.instagram.com/thetrafficbar>

Ivory

A stunning wine collection housed in the most beautiful wine rack you've ever seen, Ivory is famed for their birthday hosting. Everyone who's anyone has had their birthday here as they have first-class kitchen service and the dining space to match.

Recent upgrades give it a more party vibe and the balcony views of the city at night are amazing for a sit out drink alone or with the crew.

<https://www.instagram.com/ivoryroomng>



Bature Brewery

With an amazing back story, Bature brewery actually started off as a boutique brewery of craft beer which then added on an actual physical location. An african beer award winner as well as its seasonal beers crafted on location, Bature offers outdoor seating with bar food and a culturally diverse crowd. Great with expats, we recommend trying out a beer or two!

<https://www.instagram.com/baturebrewery>

Vanilla

If you've been to Abuja, you've been to Vanilla. Boasting a fine dining restaurant to one side and bar/lounge to the other, they are the oldest spot on our list and their staying power is testament to the amazing nights over the last decade and a half of their existence. From cocktails to food and bottles, Vanilla has you covered. Ladies, make sure to check out the bathroom for glorious selfies!

https://www.instagram.com/vanilla_abuja



Speakeasy

With its origins steeped in the prohibition era drinking bars, Speakeasy is tucked away but not quite as hidden as it sounds. Once you get through the doors, the distinct energy and very loyal crowd infect you with great vibes and nicely priced drinks. Certainly worth checking out, and make sure to look for the Speakeasy sign. We love it.

https://www.instagram.com/speakeasy_ng

Duo

This one is definitely more food than drinks but the food is really good. Take out or eat in, duo offers a broad spectrum of meals and we like the consistency each time. The bar offering is quite small and theres not a lot of music but if you want a hearty meal in a clean spot and some to take home, then this is the one you have to pass through.

<https://www.instagram.com/duorestaurants>





Ann's Kitchen

Truly beautiful people. Ann's is named after the founders mom. Open from morning, theres a strong focus on dining with individual booths inside and and a very cool inside/outside bar just once you go in. We like. Dont forget to check out their bathroom for selfies.

<https://www.instagram.com/annsabuja>



Indigo

Possibly the most beautiful sign of any spot on our list, indigo boasts a very large space and beautiful lighting for its outdoor bar. Offering a reasonably sized food menu, we like the crowd, and located on Gana street which is fast emerging as the busiest street in Maitama, its very easy to find.

<https://www.instagram.com/indigorestaurantabuja>

Zodara

Recently relocated but havent missed a step! Zodara boasts a famous games night for the last few years. Very well priced cocktails and an extremely cool crowd of the young and beautiful, hipsters and creatives alike. This is one of the cool ones.

<https://www.instagram.com/zodara>



Urban Air

So you have to check out Urban Air for their business class themed seats or is that private jets! They were actually featured internationally just for their seats. Much smaller than pictures indicate, its certainly a novelty bar/restaurant but well worth the photos and a worthy addition to our must check out list.

https://www.instagram.com/urbanair_restaurantabj

Seven on The Street

Part of the ubiquitous Play Network, Seven is as centrally located as you could ask with unlimited street parking. There isn't a specific theme but it certainly offers a great pre night spot for Play enthusiasts and they stay open very late on Sundays.

<https://www.instagram.com/sevenonthestreet>



Stay at Gwarimpa

Stay is a luxury boutique hotel nestled in gwarimpa and its truly a hidden gem. We love the name! 5 carefully curated rooms with a great outdoor bar.

Don't forget to ask for the gas meat. Trust us on this one!

https://instagram.com/stayatgwarimpa?utm_medium=copy_link

Wingist

Also part of a larger hospitality group (we sense a theme here), Wingist is located in the Central Business District and is quite aesthetic with the all white decor and mid level views with sit in or sit out options. With a pretty cool crowd and a decent bar, they also offer some amazing bar food and we recommend the wings to dine in or take out.

https://www.instagram.com/wingist_restaurant



Vogue

Nestled under the Abuja famous 3:45 nightclub, Vogue is a pretty cosy bar with some cool seats. Yes the seats themselves are cool! With a bumping Amapiano night on Wednesdays, they also throw great parties with huge crowds.

<https://www.instagram.com/voguelifestyleabuja/>

Bustle

Part of the Hustle & Bustle franchise, Bustle is the bar/lounge experience and they do have an amazing outdoor space with one of the most purpose built outlets we have ever seen. Lush decor with the standard outdoor dining optional space, you have to check this out before you head up to the nightclub which as we mentioned is called Hustle.

<https://www.instagram.com/hustleandbustle.ng>



VII Bistro

A truly beautiful location, it gives us full bistro vibes and the drinks aren't bad either .Very well designed and great food to match, please ask for their secret room or if you fancy a smoke, the upstairs patio. They cater to great birthdays as well and receive our stamp of cool.

<https://www.instagram.com/sevenbistrong>

6ixx

Located in high brow Maitama, 6ixx is a hodge podge of bar, outdoor dining and very private booths. For a night out with a larger group and some privacy, this is your spot. We really like their shot glasses which are actual shotgun shells. Super cool!

https://instagram.com/6ixx_rbg?utm_medium=copy_link





Lagos Bistro

Part of the very trendy art district complex, Lagos bistro stays true to its name with shades of the energetic former Nigerian capital and hints of yellow everywhere representing the ubiquitous Danfo bus. Drinks in or out; if you go for breakfast dont forget to ask for the legendary ewa agoyin!

<https://www.instagram.com/lagosbistro/?hl=en>

Moda

More restaurant than bar. We love the elegant furnishing - it makes you sit up properly! With a small bar and sumptuous seating, you'll want to dress smart for this one. The food is very very well presented as well. Salute!

<https://www.instagram.com/modaabuja>



Grey

Overlooking the bustling Adetokunbo Ademola street, Grey very quickly became the destination party spot for Abujas party people. Parking can be a nightmare but the party does not stop here! It really doesn't! You have to put this on your list. The Grey way.

<https://www.instagram.com/greylounge>

The Barrel

For that food truck vibe. The location also houses a world class culinary school and is part of the red gourmet group, dishing out fine chefs and food by the minute (You see what we did there). Loads of take aways from here for the start of the night or the end of it. Head to The Barrel for a sit out to remember.

<https://www.instagram.com/thebarrelng>



Barracuda

Yes you guessed it. The scientific name for fish is pisces (yes, thank us later) and at Barracuda they do all kinds of fish. All kinds. The seafood here is not be messed with. Located on the top floor and offering pretty decent views, theres an adequate drinks menu but we fully recommend trying out the food. Amazing stuff.

https://www.instagram.com/stories/barracuda_restopub

Eden by Wingist

Slightly off the beaten path and located in the Garki district, you have to check out the beautiful entrance. Its a walkway with a series of pod style seating areas before you come into the closed bar. Beautiful. They got a very photo scenic layout and we love it. The bar itself is open all day and you can catch everything from football to drinks.

<https://www.instagram.com/edenbywingist>



Junkyard Grill

Very very busy. The name tells its own story and its got a very rustic outdoor vibe. Tyres, signs, recycled chairs all form a vast layout where everyone can find their corner. They've got swings and a massive DJ stand as well. Food and drinks are very well priced. Casual dress and lots of parking.

<https://www.instagram.com/junkyardgrills>

Sequence Lounge

Is it odd to use the word cosy for a bar? Well Sequence is easily accessible off the incredibly busy Gana street . If you want to get away from the really busy spots but still get your music on, then Sequence is for you.

https://www.instagram.com/sequence_lounge



Vibe by Anns

Sister bar to Anns restaurant, this place is massive. Offering everything from dining to full scale partying, they boast Abujas only revolving bar . They also got a great all glass seating area with sky views and a nice vibe.

<https://www.instagram.com/vibebyanns>

Play Hilton

Located where the old Safari nightclub used to be, Play Hilton is very nicely located in the Hilton hotel (the name kind of gives it away). It offers a premium nightclub experience with hotel guests and walk-ins from outside. It typically kicks off way past midnight and you may or may not walk out to the sun shining!

<https://www.instagram.com/playhilton>



Tar Tar

Named after its founder, its a really classy spot and they've got a lovely garden area with low music for a more chill vibe and an extensive indoor food menu with cocktails to match. Side note: they sell the most amazing tea to drink in or take home. Dont say we dont do anything for you!

<https://www.instagram.com/tartarabuja>



Meraki

The phrase 'hidden gem' is often bandied about but Meraki absolutely earns it, tucked away in the rooftop of a luxury apartment building. You definitely feel like you're outside Abuja and very away from it all. Superb lighting and a very quiet ambience lend this spot a rare elegance bridging restaurant and old school gentlemen bar. For when you guys need to talk.

<https://www.instagram.com/merakirestaurantandlounge>

Mambaah

To be perfectly honest we couldn't tell where the art started and the bar ended. This one is a must see. Set literally on rocks with art pieces everywhere and areas cut out of stone, we absolutely recommend this spot for the originality alone. Oh, and you are very likely to buy art before you leave! Don't forget you came for drinks!

<https://www.instagram.com/mambaahcafe>



Valora

This one is very tricky. So it's an arcade and you also get to shoot indoor hoops and or jump around in a bouncy castle; all while waiting for your drinks. Yep, this one has us stumped too so it gets the must see badge and you may just catch us shooting hoops again there soon!

<https://www.instagram.com/valorabuja>

Bulgaria

Part hidden gem, part hole in the wall. Bulgaria has a very pretty indoor bar and its full name is Bulgaria Milk and Flesh. Yes, that one had us scratching our heads too. It's quiet and smaller but does have an energetic karaoke night and we recommend their seafood pepper-soup.

https://www.instagram.com/bulgaria_mf



Beirut

A really cool photo sign at the entrance and lots of turns once you get in, it feels like you're discovering each area for the first time. Drinks are reasonably priced and since you're on Adetokunbo Ademola, you're not far from the action at all. Easy to find and certainly worth a pop in.

https://www.instagram.com/beirut_abuja

Tribe Afrik

This place is massive. It's definitely the most day and night place we met with a swimming pool and cabanas to boot. It morphs at night with well lit areas and lots of separate and private spaces

<https://www.instagram.com/tribeafrikabuja>



Ivy League

This place is beautiful. Abuja boasts a lot of rooftop locations but this soot takes the cake – lighting, architecture, bathrooms; all well done. There's a large dining area for large parties and two private areas for a more intimate group. Make sure to peek out the windows for a breath-taking view of the street below. Look out for the signs celebrating Nigeria's premier universities.

<https://www.instagram.com/theivyleagueabuja>



Carbon

You cannot miss the sign! Very bold and certainly great branding. It's a smaller space and can get very packed on a Friday. Almost always a dual DJ combo so music flows through and the beautiful people are all on show.

<https://www.instagram.com/carbonabuja>

Beer Barn

Originally focused on beers from around the world, Beer Barn expanded its location and is now a full service lounge. There's bottle service on one side with pool tables and a heaving Friday crowd to match. Popular with expats, parking can be tricky but for a stomping Friday you can check this one out.

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/276917692/beer-barn-nigeria/?hl=en>



TAJ

Gorgeous place, the official colour is teal and it just blends effortlessly with the light oak wood when you come up the stairs. Great great food with a small bar. The focus here is dining and the walls are all glass so you have unrestricted views. They have a really cool dedicated shisha room and all. We mean, all the beautiful people are here.

<https://www.instagram.com/tajbistro.ng>

Habil Cafe

Situated on the famous Adetokunbo Ademola street (you must be tired of going up and down this one), Habil is quietly establishing itself as a mainstay. It serves proper coffee and a really good breakfast menu. Get your work done, play a few board games or have a full English. Habil does not disappoint.

https://www.instagram.com/habilcafe_abuja

