

# The A-Z of heterotopias

- A is for asylums and Alice's mirror
- B is for boarding schools and brothels
- C is for circuses and castles in the air
- D is for digital cities and dividing practices
- E is for escape dens and endless encyclopaedias
- F is for fairs and 'that from a long way off look like flies'
- G is for garden retreats and gay bath houses
- H is for honeymoon hotels and hospitals
- I is for ideal prisons and idyllic *Sidi Bou Said*<sup>1</sup>
- J is for Jesuit colonies and journeys to different spaces
- K is for kaleidoscopes and kite festivals
- L is for libraries and LPUs (local pirate utopias)
- M is for Magritte's and Manet's mirrors
- N is for nudist beaches and Neverland
- O is for oases and Occupy's emplacements
- P is for playgrounds and placeless places
- Q is for quixotic windmills and quotidian quirks
- R is for Rousselian rebuses<sup>2</sup> and reservoirs for the imagination
- S is for sailing vessels and Scandinavian saunas
- T is for theatres and time travellers
- U is for utopic pedagogies and utopian debris
- V is for vacation fantasy villages and vanishing heterotopias
- W is for wonderland and the woods in *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*
- X is for X-linked periventricular traces<sup>3</sup> and Xbox ecologies
- Y is for young offenders' institutions and YouTube selfies
- Z is for zoological parks and zones of the oppressed.



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<sup>1</sup> Foucault was attracted to the work of the avant-garde writer Raymond Roussel and his intricate, playful games with words and images

<sup>2</sup> Foucault was staying in the coastal village of Sidi Bou Said in Tunisia at the time of inventing the notion of heterotopia (1966-67).

<sup>3</sup> Heterotopia is also a clinical term. X-linked periventricular heterotopia is a neuronal migration disorder, characterised by the presence of uncalcified nodules of neurons ectopically situated along the surface of the lateral ventricles.

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