

DIGITAL MARKETING TRENDS & PREDICTIONS

Key insights from
Google, Meta, Spotify, YouTube, Pinterest & TikTok

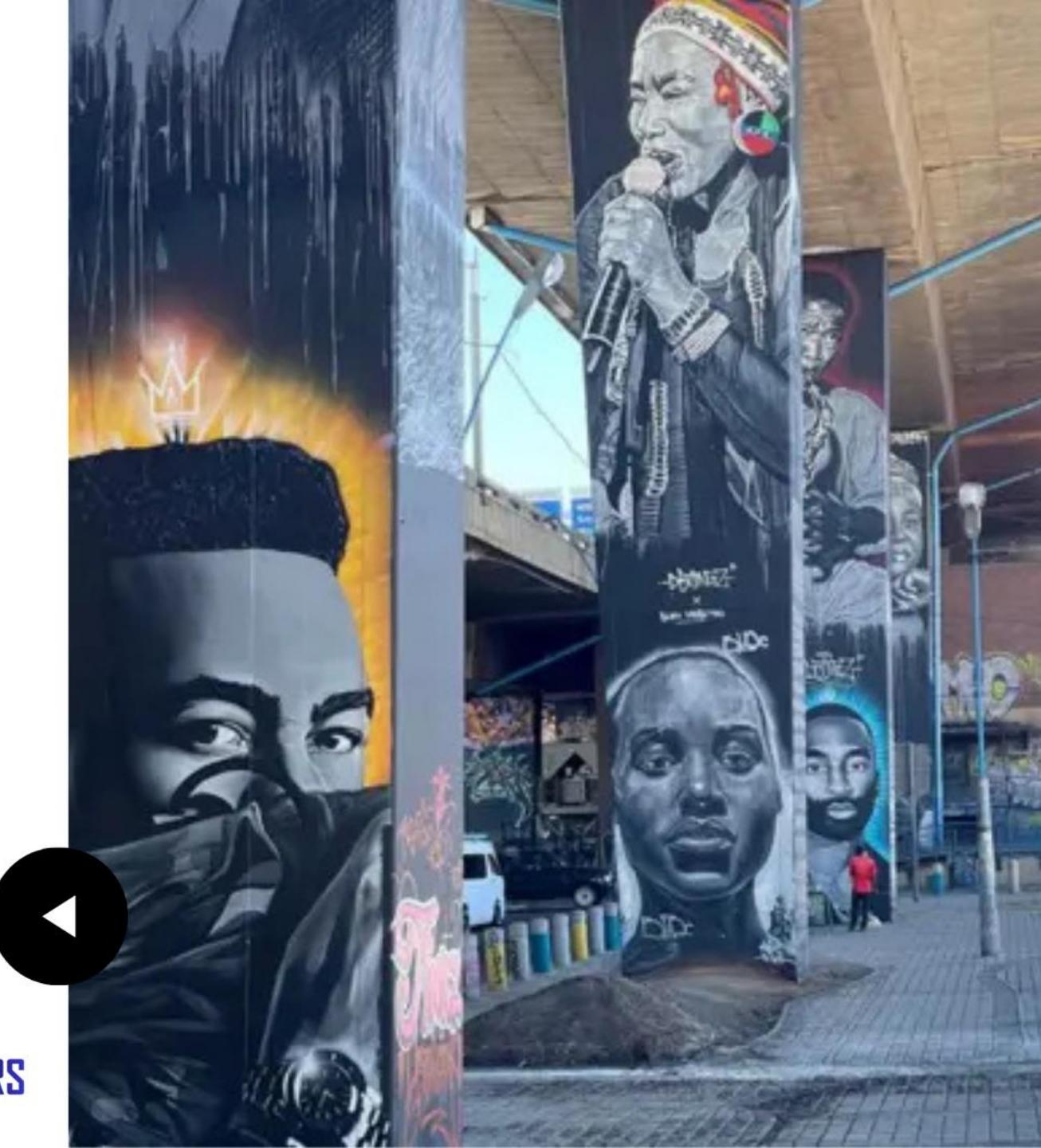


WHAT TO EXPECT

This deck brings together the most influential platforms shaping consumer behaviour in 2026, each offering a distinct lens on how people discover, engage, and express themselves across digital culture.

- **Google** reveals shifts in AI-powered discovery
- **YouTube** highlights creator-led exploration
- **Pinterest** surfaces early cultural signals
- **TikTok** captures real-time culture
- **Meta** reflects connection at scale through AI
- **Spotify** brings a contextual view through audio

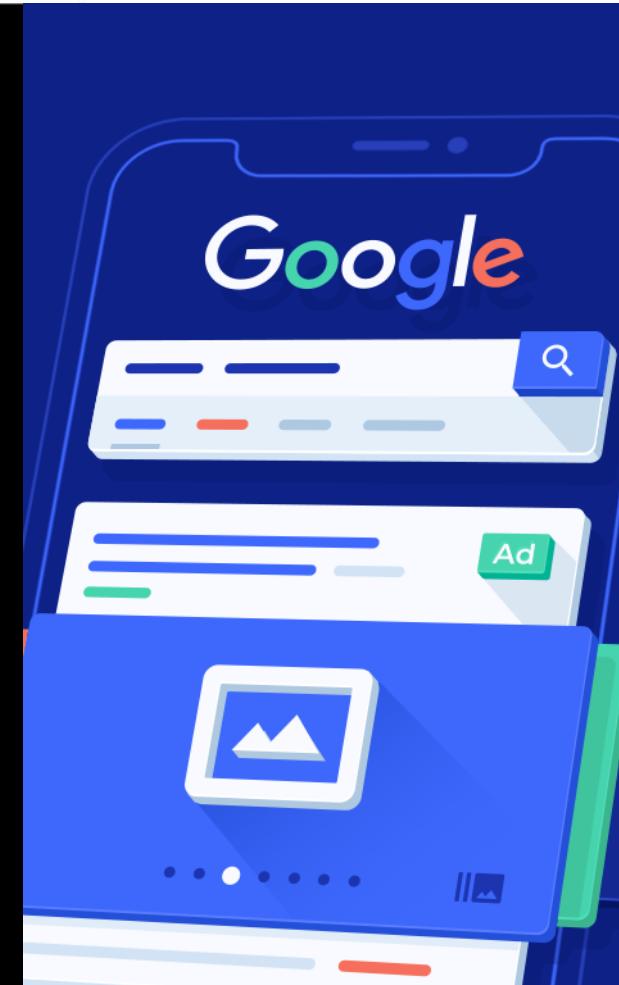
Together, these perspectives show where behaviours are converging, where platform roles differ, and how brands can respond with more relevant, connected, and strategic experiences in 2026.



GOOGLE

Google's 2026 trends focus on how AI and emotional context are reshaping consumer behaviour. Discovery is becoming conversational and intent-driven, while consumers are increasingly seeking immediacy, reassurance, and tangible value.

The report highlights growing emotional fatigue, changing expectations around progress, and the need for brands to adapt to AI-powered search environments. Success is less about visibility alone and more about usefulness, authority, and relevance across the entire consumer journey.



GOOGLE 2026 TRENDS

AI-driven Discovery

Search evolves from keywords to conversational, multi-modal exploration.

Progress Now Over Distant Rewards

Consumers prioritise immediate value and visible progress rather than long-term promises.

Participation Over Consumption

Audiences want to engage with brands, not just observe them.

The Nostalgic Remix

Familiar brand assets are reimagined through modern formats and culture.

Tangible Sustainability

Sustainability must deliver clear, functional benefits, not abstract pledges.

INTENT, IMMEDIACY & AI-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

PINTEREST

Pinterest Predicts 2026 identifies early cultural shifts before they hit the mainstream, based on long-term search and engagement behaviour rather than short-lived trends.

The report highlights a move toward self-expression, sensory richness, nostalgia, and slower, more intentional behaviours. Pinterest's lens is rooted in aspiration and planning, how people imagine, design, and shape their future lives.

PINTEREST 2026 TRENDS

Expressive Aesthetics

Bold styles, retro influences, and visual personality replace minimalism.

Nostalgic Rituals

Letter writing, tactile hobbies, and slower rituals regain relevance.

Design Escapism

Homes, fashion, and environments become creative outlets and emotional spaces.

Sensory-Led Experiences

Texture, colour, and materiality play a larger role in decision-making.

Personalised Identity And Style

Customisation and individuality drive beauty, fashion, and lifestyle choices.

ASPIRATION, IDENTITY & CULTURAL FORECASTING

TIKTOK

TikTok's 2026 trends reflect culture in motion, driven by creators, communities, and entertainment-first discovery. Trends emerge organically, evolve rapidly, and are shaped by participation rather than top-down influence.

TikTok positions itself as a discovery engine where entertainment, authenticity, and cultural remix define how people find and engage with brands. Relevance is earned through creativity, not polish.

TIKTOK 2026 TRENDS

Entertainment-Led Discovery

People discover brands through content they enjoy, not what they search for.

Creator-Powered Storytelling

Creators drive trust, tone, and cultural relevance.

Cultural Remix And Iteration

Trends are constantly reinterpreted and reshaped by communities.

Participation And Co-Creation

Users expect to engage, respond, and contribute.

Authentic Content

Human, imperfect content outperforms highly produced brand assets.

CULTURE IN MOTION & ENTERTAINMENT-LED DISCOVERY

META

Meta's 2026 outlook focuses on how AI, creators, and private communication spaces are redefining how people connect with brands. As feeds become increasingly algorithm-driven, Meta emphasises relevance built through understanding people's interests, behaviours, and social contexts.

A major shift is the growing importance of messaging and community-based interactions, where trust is higher and intent is clearer. Meta frames the future as one where discovery, conversation, and conversion happen fluidly across platforms supported by AI-powered personalisation at scale.

META 2026 TRENDS

AI-Powered Personalisation

AI drives content recommendations, ad delivery, and creative optimisation across Meta platforms.

Messaging as a channel

DMs and private conversations become central to discovery and conversion.

Creator-Led Influence

Creators act as trusted cultural and commercial intermediaries.

Community-First Engagement

Groups and shared interests deepen long-term brand relationships.

Frictionless Social Commerce

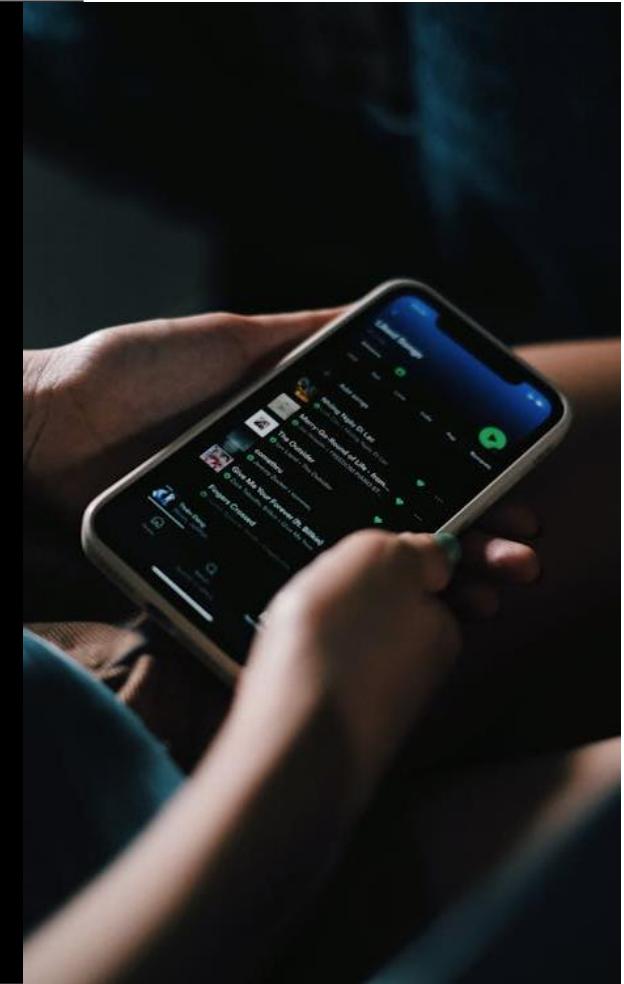
Inspiration, conversation, and purchase increasingly merge into one journey.

CONNECTION AT SCALE THROUGH AI, MESSAGING & COMMUNITY

SPOTIFY

Spotify's 2026 trends highlight the power of audio as an emotional and contextual medium. In a world of visual overload, Spotify positions listening as an intimate, screen-free experience that accompanies people throughout their daily lives.

Spotify emphasises the importance of moment-based relevance, where ads and brand messages align with mood, mindset, and activity. Rather than interrupting, brands are encouraged to integrate naturally into moments of focus, motivation, and emotion



SPOTIFY 2026 TRENDS

Contextual Advertising

Messaging tailored to mood, activity, and listening environment.

Emotion-Driven Engagement

Audio builds stronger emotional connection than many visual formats.

Creator And Podcast Influence

Hosts and creators shape trust and attention within niche communities.

Audio As A Medium

Brands show up during daily routines, not just peak attention moments.

Longer-Form Storytelling

Podcasts and branded audio allow for depth over disruption.

EMOTION, CONTEXT & INTIMATE ATTENTION

YOUTUBE

YouTube's 2026 outlook positions the platform as a space for deeper engagement and considered discovery, where people actively choose to spend time learning, being entertained, or exploring interests.

The platform continues to blur the lines between entertainment and utility, with creators acting as trusted guides across everything from culture and trends to product research and decision-making. YouTube increasingly functions as both a discovery engine and a credibility layer within the consumer journey.



YOUTUBE 2026 TRENDS

Creator Trust And Authority

Creators influence understanding, preference, and purchase through long-form storytelling.

Lean-In Content

Audiences are choosing depth, explanation, and context over quick hits.

Community And Loyalty Building

Subscriptions, comments, and series formats drive long-term engagement.

Search Meets Storytelling

YouTube content supports both active intent and passive discovery.

Cross-Format Ecosystems

Shorts, long-form, and live content work together to sustain attention over time.

DEPTH, TRUST & LEAN-IN DISCOVERY

KEY TREND:

2026 is about **meeting people in the moment of intent**, using **AI to personalise and accelerate decisions**, while **building trust through culture, community, and emotionally resonant experiences**—not just reach.



LET US HELP YOU BUILD AUDIENCES!

