



Retail temples

Even if you're not a fan of shopping, these glamorous and historic department stores are so iconic that they have become tourist attractions in their own right. *Upward Curve* discovers what they have to offer

LE BON MARCHÉ, PARIS

Widely regarded as the first department store in the world, Le Bon Marché was opened in Paris in 1852 by Aristide Boucicaut and his wife Marguerite. Aiming to create "a new kind of store that would thrill all the senses", the couple enlisted the help of architect Louis-Charles Boileau and engineer Gustave Eiffel (of Tower fame), who designed a store very much in-tune with the style and

creativity of Paris's Rive Gauche. Complementing the ornamented ironwork throughout the store is a refined selection of high-end products, from makeup, perfume, and accessories on the ground floor, through to prestige fashion labels such as Givenchy, Stella McCartney and Lanvin on the upper levels.

Le Bon Marché Rive Gauche

24 Rue de Sèvres,
75007 Paris, France
www.lebonmarche.com

BERGDORF GOODMAN, NEW YORK

While New York's other iconic department stores – such as Macy's, Barneys, Bloomingdale's and Saks Fifth Avenue – have all spread their wings beyond the Big Apple to open chain stores across the US and overseas, the ultra-luxe Bergdorf Goodman remains firmly rooted in Manhattan.

Located at 5th Avenue and 58th Street, the store has been a New York landmark since 1901, representing the pinnacle of

style, service and modern luxury. The iconic window displays continue to draw the city's most sophisticated shoppers inside the imposing art deco building, where they will find eight floors of elegant couture and high-end designer collections for women and, across Fifth Avenue, three floors of menswear. Shoppers can also unwind in the on-site salon, restaurant and café after giving their credit card a workout.

Bergdorf Goodman

754 5th Ave, New York,
NY 10019, USA
www.berdorfgoodman.com

GUM, MOSCOW

Moscow's GUM – an abbreviation of the Russian "Glavnyi Universalnyi Magazin", literally meaning "main universal store" – was built between 1890 and 1893, with the building's façade extending for almost 250 metres (820 feet) along the eastern side of Red Square. Inside, the architecture is no less impressive, with a spectacular arched roof, containing more than 20,000 panes of glass, stretching from one end of the store to the other. In keeping with the eye-catching design, the GUM features over 200 high-end stores, including Burberry, Joop!, Hermès and Moschino, as well as an array of restaurants and cafes.

GUM

Red Square, 3, Moscow,
Russia, 101000
www.gum.ru

SHINSEGAE CENTUM CITY, BUSAN

The flagship Busan outlet of Korean retail chain Shinsegae is officially the world's largest department store, having surpassed New York's iconic Macy's store in 2009. Shinsegae Centum City spans a massive 509,810 square metres (5,487,595 square feet) and features big-name brands

and boutique labels across nine floors of shopping, in addition to two epic food courts, an ice-skating rink, 60-tee indoor golf range, multiplex cinema, traditional Korean spa and rooftop garden.

Shinsegae Centum City

1495 Wu-dong, Haeundae-gu,
Busan, Korea
www.shinsegae.com

HARRODS, LONDON

Arguably the world's most famous department store, Harrods has been attracting tourists and upmarket shoppers in equal measure for well over a century. Having opened on its current site in Knightsbridge, West London, with just a single room in 1851, the store rapidly grew into a thriving retail giant. Today, it encompasses 330 departments across seven floors, welcoming more than 15 million customers each year – all eager to test the store's motto, *Omnia Omnibus Ubique* (All Things for All People, Everywhere). Over the years, its clientele has included the likes of Oscar Wilde, Noël Coward, Laurence Olivier and many members of the British Royal Family, all drawn to its endless range of products, 27 restaurants and celebrated food hall.

Harrods

87-135 Brompton Rd,
Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL,
United Kingdom
www.harrods.com

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE, DUBAI

Since opening on New York's iconic Fifth Avenue in 1924, Saks has become one of the world's preeminent fashion retailers, with 40 stores across the US as well as international outlets in Bahrain, Dubai, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Puerto Rico. The Dubai store, which opened in 2004, is the largest Saks Fifth Avenue department store outside the US, with 7,400 square metres (80,000 square feet) of retail space located inside the stylish BurJuman Shopping Centre.

Over the last decade, Saks Fifth Avenue has become a firm favourite of the Dubai shopping scene, offering two huge levels filled with high-end designer labels such as Prada, MiuMiu, Dolce & Gabbana, Christian Louboutin, Christian Dior and Jean Paul Gaultier. The store also features departments selling fine fragrances and cosmetics, gifts, men's fashion, shoes and jewellery, making it a one-stop-shop for Dubai's most discerning shoppers.

Saks Fifth Avenue

BurJuman Shopping Centre,
Khalid Bin Al Waleed Street
PO Box 71791, Dubai,
United Arab Emirates
www.saksfifthavenue.com

