

Luxury check in

As global flights increase exponentially and travel hubs reposition themselves as business metropolis, Airports have become destinations in their own right

First impressions are important, and an airport is no different. Almost a national showcase, shops display the finest craftsmanship and national culinary delicacies, offering the discerning shopper an opportunity to wallow in luxury goods.

BANGKOK SUVARNABHUMI

The largest airport in South East Asia is designed in a cantilevered wave by the architect Helmut Jahn. It is famous for its innovative construction which maximises daylight and insulates passengers from the heat and noise of the surrounding environment.

Level 4, Concourse D, is the home of classic international luxury fashion brands including Fendi and Prada, Loewe, Cartier and Bulgari Burberry, Dior, Hugo Boss and Swarovski.

A number of Thai brands such as Chitralada, Sai Jai Thai, and Sai Yai Rak sell a selected edit of traditional crafts, picked for their quality and often given a contemporary update by young designers to create exclusive designer items rooted in high quality craftsmanship. Royal Project & OTOP champions the unique craft skills of each district of Thailand, which includes wooden carving, intricate silverware and ceramics.

At either end of the departure lounge sits a showroom for the distinguished textiles company, Jim Thompson, named after the American architect and art collector who bought Thai silk to an international audience in the 1950s – in a pioneering example of sustainable trade. The hand-made silks with their distinctive

slub are coveted the world over by interior designers and couturiers for their unparalleled lustre, colour palette and quality. Visitors can browse a range of ready-to-wear apparel and accessories, as well as soft furnishings.

bangkokairportonline.com

VANCOUVER YVR

For shoppers whose love of luxury is unrivalled, there are more than 80 stores at Vancouver YVR, including Boss by Hugo Boss, Coach, Kate Spade and shoe label Stuart Weitzman – known for its over-the-knee boots, classic patent pumps and strappy heeled sandals.

Beyond the security barriers in duty free, shoppers will discover international fashion brands such as Salvatore Ferragamo, Hermes and Gucci, as well as

watchmakers Omega and high-performance skiwear by Moncler.

Food specialities including wild sockeye salmon can be found at the Vancouver Marketplace, while artisan confectionery can be found at the shop of Vancouver-based pâtissier Thomas Haas.

Connoisseur Collection offers an array of the finest whiskies and cognacs from around the world, with vintage and exclusive bottles as well as niche lines from major distilleries and independent bottlers.

yvr.ca

DUBAI

Given the city's reputation for superlative opulence, it is no surprise that the concourses at Dubai DXB are home to an almost overwhelming selection of luxury brands from all corners of the earth, including watches by Rolex and Hublot and pens by Montegrappa and ST Dupont. Perfume accounts for almost 15 per cent of annual sales at the airport and among the usual luxury fragrances you'll find rarer scents from artisan perfume houses such as Atelier Cologne, Creed, Amouage and Initio Parfums Privés.

And in a city renowned for its gold souks, it would be remiss to overlook the extensive gold and jewellery selections in Terminals 1 and 3. Here you can find high-quality yellow gold in Middle Eastern, Indian and European styles, often with intricate designs and set with diamonds, pearls and other precious stones. Serious gold buyers can invest in solid gold bars – available in 18, 22 and 24 karats.

Other treasures are to be found beyond the glittering splendour. The Dubai-based wine and spirit merchant Le Clos has 10 branches across the airport, which stock a wide selection of fine wines and spirits. Complimentary services include in-store tastings, and personalised bottle engraving, as well as a click-and-collect service that will have your online purchases ready on arrival or departure from Dubai.

The real treasures though are to be found in the 'Rarities' collection. This includes a 1982 Petrus, a 50 year-old Glen Grant Limited Edition single-malt whisky,

and Karuizawa Collection whiskies from the now-defunct Japanese distillery – the last cask of which is due for release onto the market in 2020.

In terminal 3, La Casa de Habano stocks an exclusive range of Cuban Habanos, the cigars rated by aficionados for the unique flavours of the tobacco, which like fine wine is dependent the terrain in which it is grown. All Habanos are made completely by hand, using methods that have remained unchanged for the past two centuries. Cigars are authenticated and packaged in boxes with a security seal. dubaiairports.ae

PARIS CDG

As might be expected in a country that was the birthplace celebrated brands too numerous to mention, Charles De Gaulles airport is not short of luxury offerings. Browse fashion, jewellery and leather goods from doyens of French luxury Cartier, Chanel, Hermes and Dior in Terminal 2, Hall K – arranged in a cluster among cosy lounges



and contemporary sculpture. Beyond the world of fashion, Christofle – the Parisian silversmiths founded in 1830 – can be found in Terminal 2E. Once the Silversmith to Napoleon, the company continues to produce traditional silverware as well as create modern reinventions in collaboration with contemporary artists and designers. Les Caves Particulieres offers champagne by Moët & Chandon, Krug, Dom Pérignon and Veuve Clicquot as well as a range of cognacs by Hennessy, including blends exclusive to the airport. Gourmets can enjoy macarons by famed

Parisian teahouse Ladurée, and patés des fruits, rare teas and flower infusions from the gourmet grocer Hediard. parisaeroport.fr

NEW YORK JFK

New York's gargantuan JFK airport is home to big-name brands from all over the world, and it is said that the shopping within could give Fifth Avenue a run for its money. Terminal 1 is home to much of the airport's international luxury offering, ➤

Above: Michael Kors and Bvlgari stores at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York





Left: Perfume shopping at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris Below: Tiffany & Co store inside Narita Airport in Japan Bottom: Hermes in Singapore's Changi Airport

which includes jewellers Bulgari and Cartier, and fashion from Salvatore Ferragamo and Hermes, while classic American names such as Michael Kors and Hugo Boss can be found in Terminal 8. Terminal 8 is home to Porsche Design in a boutique that houses sleek active and casual wear, jewellery and luggage collections inspired by its motoring heritage, while Swiss watchmakers Tag Heuer and Mont Blanc have joined forces in a concession that offers classic timepieces from both brands.

jfkairport.com

SINGAPORE CHANGI

Changi is considered by many to be the jewel in the crown of luxury airports – not just for its shopping but for overall ambience. Alongside the 350 shops there are tropical gardens, an airport slide and a rooftop swimming pool.

Located in the departure transit lounge on levels two and three of terminal three is the Butterfly Garden. This slice of nature is the perfect antidote to the man-made (however luxurious) atmosphere of an airplane with tropical flowering plants and a six-metre waterfall. Enjoy the soothing environment among the fluttering of almost 1,000 butterflies from 40 different species.

Other gardens include the Cactus, Water Lily and Sunflower and Orchid gardens, where travellers can while away the hours looking among carefully nurtured plants.

If all of this relaxation eats into shopping time, head to Level 2, Terminal 4 to concept store the Fashion Gallery, an

emporium which stocks a wide range of fashion and accessories brands including Bottega Veneta, YSL, Versace, Bulgari, Kenzo, Etro, as well shoe from Melissa and sunglasses from Dior, Fendi and Gucci. Frequent flyers can also benefit from the store's promotional events.



The Fashion Gallery also stocks the Hong Kong born Shanghai Tang, founded by businessman and socialite David Tang in 1994, and now part of the Richemont group. Its trademark look applies a contemporary, minimalist take to traditional Chinoiserie in distinctive, elegant clothing. Find silk shirts with jewelled aventurine buttons and qipao in bold modern prints, as well as outerwear and accessories.

In the Lee Hwa Diamond Boutique (Level 2 departure lounge of Terminal 2) you'll find European brands such as Niessing – known for their combination of craftsmanship and innovative technology – and leading pearl jeweller Yoko London. The boutique is also the exclusive stockist of the Buddha Diamond, hand cut from a single piece of rough diamond into a pendant of the philosopher in his iconic seated pose.

changiairport.com