



Hot shelves

Luxury fashion brands prioritise attention to detail and craftsmanship – after hundreds of hours in the design process – outlet shopping villages across the world present affordable access to high-ticket items, all in one place

When bargains come around for luxury brands, the savings are not to be missed, as the quality and staying power of luxury items cannot be ignored or replaced. The following luxury outlets around the world offer the best deals for the discerning shopper.

BICESTER VILLAGE, UK

Nestled in the heart of Oxfordshire, Bicester Village opened its doors in 1995. Designed as an open-air shopping centre, it boasts individual design elements for each boutique store, all facing the outdoor pedestrian

area of the mall. While this location is one of eleven similar outlets throughout Europe and China, its incredible selection of luxury brands makes it stand out as a flagship spot for great deals. Notable boutiques include Alexander McQueen, Balenciaga, Burberry, Dior, Prada, Gucci and Valentino.

Access to the outlet centre is convenient, with train lines directly from London and Birmingham, as well as regular coach shuttles from London all throughout the day. Even Kate Middleton has been spotted scoping out the deals at this amazing boutique outlet.

tbvsc.com/bicester-village



GOTEMBA OUTLET, SHIZUOKA

This incredible outlet sits at the base of the famous Mount Fuji, and views of Japan's most famous landmark are stunning from all around the area. The facility has three distinct zones, titled East, West and Hillside, which connect in a triangular pattern. Travelling to the shopping destination is as simple as catching a train or a bus from most major cities in Japan, including Tokyo, Kamagawa and Hakone. With high-end brands such as Ugg, Mont Blanc, Bonpoint, Armani and Calvin Klein, there are many amazing deals to be found here. Apart from the shopping, Gotemba also offers other entertainment, such as an outdoor golfing area amidst the three zones, a ferris wheel, hot springs and a luxury hotel connected with the centre. premiumoutlets.co.jp/gotemba ➤

Above: Prada at Bicester Village in the UK county of Oxfordshire; a short trip from London
Left: Gucci at The Mall, Firenze in Florence, Italy

WOODBURY COMMON OUTLET, U.S.

The trip to this incredible New York outlet is where the luxury starts, with every kind of transport option available. Trains and buses are the least impressive options, with shopping shuttles, limousines and even helicopters for those who would like a complete luxury package from start to finish.

Woodbury Common was first opened in 1985 in Central Valley and has only accrued more luxury brands through the years. Polo Ralph Lauren and Saint Laurent are two such brands, as well as Saks, Puma, Kenzo

and BOSS. Team members at the centre specialise in speaking many different languages to accommodate international guests, and the different areas of the mall are named after famous New York counties: Saratoga, Hamptons, Hudson Valley and Adirondacks.

premiumoutlets.com/outlet/woodbury-common

Right: Versace at OutletCity Metzingen in Germany Below: Armani at OutletCity Bottom: The view of Mount Fuji from Gotemba Premium Outlet



OUTLET CITY METZINGEN, GERMANY

Surrounded by many luxury hotels and accessible by bus or train, Metzingen's OutletCity boasts big name brands like Guess, Michael Kors, Breitling, Karl Lagerfeld and Tommy Hilfiger. While it first opened its doors in 1997, OutletCity launched an amazing online platform for virtual shopping in 2012 and continues to innovate in new ways to shop. If a bus or train doesn't appeal, shoppers can

organise to catch a shuttle or book a special VIP shuttle in the form of a limo or helicopter, depending on the length of the journey. In addition, the centre offers a kids' camp while the adults search for deals, and a specialised beauty care clinic.

outletcity.com/en/metzingen/

THE MALL FIRENZE, ITALY

Nothing is more important to the people at this shopping centre than the lush and extravagant culture of the Italians, whether food, wine or fashion, and the architecture here celebrates this with joy. While the offered food and wine are sourced locally, the accompanying experiences focus on the Tuscan landscape, sport and beauty for an experience that goes far beyond shopping for deals. Since its opening in 2001, many of Italy's most famous brands have been showcased here, such as Versace, Dolce & Gabbana and Salvatore Ferragamo, in addition to many other fantastic international brands like Jimmy Choo, Givenchy and Hogan. Travel to the centre is convenient, with buses and shuttles running and options for booking a car for the full Italian shopping experience.

firenze.themall.it/en ■

