



Retail redefined

An insider's guide to the best luxury shopping malls across the world, by Sarah Assenti

In a world where you can summon an item from your wishlist at the click of a button and have it arrive at your doorstep in hours, you'd be forgiven for leaving the shopping mall experience off your travel itinerary. But we're not talking about your average mall here.

Luxury malls offer something irreplaceable – the tactile, the experiential, the exquisite – and these curated emporiums of extravagance have redefined retail therapy in recent years. From elegant European couture to the avant-garde creations of emerging



designers, you can stroll through a curated collection of the world's most prestigious fashion houses.

And it's not just about fashion. Luxury malls are also epicentres of culinary excellence, boasting Michelin-starred restaurants and artisanal cafes. After indulging in gastronomic delights, retreat to tranquil VIP lounges and on-site five-star hotels, where personalised service and privacy await.

Step into one of the malls listed below, and you'll be greeted with a symphony of indulgence, and a reminder that true luxury is an experience, best savoured in person. ➤

Above: ION Orchard shopping mall in Orchard Road, Singapore
Left: Villaggio Shopping Mall is a Venice-themed shopping centre, designed to resemble an evening along the canals of Venice, in Doha, Qatar



ION ORCHARD, SINGAPORE

ION Orchard stands as a stunning testament to contemporary design, style, and opulence. Nestled in the heart of Singapore's shopping district, the Orchard stands out thanks to its award-winning architecture and panoramic views.

High-end shoppers will find fashion favourites such as Loewe, Valentino, and Bottega Veneta here, and for those seeking fine dining, head to Salt Grill & Sky Bar and the Michelin-starred Imperial Treasure. Once you're ready for a rest, the acclaimed Mandarin Oriental and The St. Regis Singapore provide nearby lavish accommodations.

The Orchard offers complimentary limousine rides from Changi Airport, or it's a short drive away for taxis and town cars. ionorchard.com

WESTFIELD LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

A global Fashion Week destination, London is an essential stop on any fashion-forward traveller's list, and Westfield London is the perfect destination for discerning luxury aficionados. Located in White City, a stone's throw from Kensington, you'll find a curated selection of global iconic brands, including Burberry, Versace, and Tiffany & Co., spread across over 2.6M square feet of retail space. Dining options include gastronomic delights at Salt Yard and the stylish Grand Caffè

Above: Christmas holiday Shopping in the Galleria Shopping Mall in Houston, Texas, with a giant Christmas tree in the middle of a skate rink
Below: Shoppers inside Westfield Shepherds Bush, West London's premiere mall for luxury shopping

Concerto champagne bar, while the nearby The Dorchester and The Berkeley offer lavish accommodations overlooking Hyde Park.

Heathrow Express offers a smooth train journey from Heathrow Airport. Already in town? This mall offers valet parking, EV charging, and is well situated to access the Underground. westfield.com/united-kingdom/london

VILLAGGIO MALL, QATAR

A majestic Venetian-inspired setting that includes gondolas and enchanting fresco ceilings, Doha's Villaggio Mall is the pinnacle of high-end retail therapy. Head to the mall's luxury avenue, Via Domo, to indulge in the most prestigious global brands, from Chaumet to Dior.

You can also take in a movie or even enjoy a ride at the Villaggio theme park, or for epicurean delights, the mall boasts gourmet dining options like La Piazza and Al Tabkha. Complete your luxury shopping weekend with a pampering stay at the nearby

Maysan Doha, or Raffles Doha for waterside views. Limousine services and convenient taxis ensure a swift transfer from Hamad International Airport. villaggioqatar.com

THE GALLERIA MALL, HOUSTON, USA

One of America's largest luxury shopping experiences, Galleria Houston is a premier destination for the luxury enthusiast. With a vast array of exclusive boutiques including Celine, Saint Laurent, Louis Vuitton, and Cartier, it offers an opulent retail experience.

Indulge in fine dining at renowned eateries like Nobu and Fig & Olive, while nearby accommodations at The Post Oak Hotel and Hotel Granduca provide an extra layer of sophistication. Galleria Houston is conveniently located near George Bush Intercontinental Airport, with

accessible transportation options ensuring a seamless journey for affluent travellers. simon.com/mall/the-galleria

CHADSTONE – THE FASHION CAPITAL, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The clue is in the name with this one; Chadstone – The Fashion Capital is Australia's largest shopping centre, making it a top-tier destination for high-end consumers. This expansive mall boasts an impressive line-up of luxury boutiques, including Alexander McQueen, Hermès, and Prada. Discerning fashion connoisseurs can take advantage of personal styling sessions, hands-free shopping, and the newly launched Chadstone Butler service.

For culinary delights, this mall offers gourmet dining experiences at Pastore and Altus, located in its own luxury hotel, the Hotel Chadstone. Other nearby five-star accommodation options include The Olsen, and Royce Hotel.

Melbourne Airport is within easy reach, at just under an hour away, making Chadstone – The Fashion Capital a must-visit for luxury shoppers from around the globe. chadstone.com.au ■

