



Bagging the best

Fashion expert Sarah Assenti reports on four of the world's finest destinations for personal shopping – Galeries Lafayette, Selfridges, Saks Fifth Ave and Lane Crawford

For the sartorial-minded, a global getaway is only as good as the opportunities it affords to bring home the fabric equivalent of a new objet d'art, be it a rare vintage label sourced from a local in-the-know stylist, or a limited edition pair of sneakers from an off the grid pop-up.

Of course, finding these treasures can take time, and if that's a limited resource on your next trip, why not consider enlisting the help of one of fashion's best kept secrets; luxury personal shopping services.

Enlisting a personal shopper offers a respite from the shop



floor, and all the best department stores have them. It's a fusion of impeccable service and sartorial expertise, creating a bespoke –

and relaxing – experience that transcends mere retail therapy. For an indulgent experience where every desire is anticipated

and every detail is perfected, here are four stores to add to any shopping itinerary.

GALERIES LAFAYETTE, PARIS

Nestled in the heart of Paris on Boulevard Haussmann, the historic Galeries Lafayette dazzles with its majestic domed roof, adorned with intricate stained glass, under which tourists and locals alike marvel at the French elegance and charm on display.

Renowned for its expert stylists, the store provides bespoke and relaxed consultations tailored to individual tastes and preferences, ensuring a truly personalised shopping experience.

Allow the dedicated team to satisfy your every whim and present an exquisite selection

Above: Selfridges in London offer a multilingual personal shopping service **Left: Paris' ornate Galeries Lafayette has a dedicated personal team**

of high-end brands, including Chanel, Dior, and Hermès, showcasing the epitome of French elegance and luxury craftsmanship. hausmann.galerieslafayette.com/en/your-personalised-services/

SELFRIDGES, LONDON

A landmark of Oxford Street, Selfridges captivates with its Grade II listed architecture and contrasting glass façade, a juxtaposition that parallels the visionary mix of innovative brands housed within.

Global luxury shoppers can enjoy a wealth of experience from the store's multilingual personal shopping team, who can source one-of-a-kind pieces, as well as pick from the store's extensive collection of designers, including Alexander McQueen, Junya Watanabe, and Jil Sander. Focused on how we live now, shoppers can also connect with the team digitally via WhatsApp and WeChat.

The eponymous Mr Selfridge was known as 'the showman of shopping' so it's perhaps no

Right: Paris Hilton shopping
Below: The late Dutch actor Rutger Hauer enjoying personal shopping assistance and Saks Fifth Avenue in New York

surprise that the brand is always thinking about the future of commerce. This is showcased best in their RESELRIDGES initiative, giving shoppers the ability to buy and sell preloved designer goods, utilise a repair service, and tap into earth-conscious style experts.

Not content with offering an extensive range of style services, Selfridges also offers a beauty concierge to help you navigate their renowned Beauty Hall and finish off your look from top to toe. www.selfridges.com/AU/en/features/services-appointments/london/styling-personal-shopping/

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Located in the heart of Manhattan on Fifth Avenue, Saks boasts a stunning architectural façade adorned with iconic Art Deco details.



The grand limestone entrance to this flagship store sets the stage for a luxurious shopping experience away from the bustle of the city.

Renowned for its array of exclusive services, from one-on-one styling consultations with top-tier fashion experts to alteration services and access to coveted designer collections, Saks sets the standard for opulence in retail therapy.

Enjoy the privacy of a personal shopping suite as your stylist brings you a selection of luxury brands, from Chanel to Gucci, The Row and Loewe. Fifth Avenue Club members can also enjoy exclusive invites to trunk shows and new designer previews. www.saksfifthavenue.com/locations/services/easy-shopping

LANE CRAWFORD, HONG KONG

Situated in the vibrant district of Central, Lane Crawford boasts a contemporary architectural design that

reflects the city's dynamic energy. Its sleek glass exterior and modern interiors offer a stylish setting for luxury shopping amidst the bustling streets of Hong Kong's financial hub.

With a decadent Platinum Suite tucked away to enjoy previewing the latest collections in privacy and comfort, shoppers can take advantage of round-the-clock personal stylists. Bespoke consultations ensure the sartorial minded receive individualised attention, and the experienced team are on hand to guide you in expressing yourself. With over 800 fashion and lifestyle labels, there are plenty of world-class brands to choose from, including Moncler, Balenciaga and Fendi.

Like Selfridges, Lane Crawford also offers a beauty concierge, as well as fashion accessories repair, further solidifying its reputation as the ultimate destination for luxury retail therapy in Asia. www.lanecrawford.com/info/service ■

