



Malls with it all

The humble shopping experience has come a long way from Roman-ruled marketplaces and Middle Eastern souks. While open-air markets retain charm, there's something deeply satisfying about a fashion-forward destination that caters to every need

The first covered shopping passages arrived in London and Paris at the turn of the 19th century, but it wasn't until the 1950s that shopping malls began to spring up across North America. Often located in the suburbs and complete with cafeteria-style eateries and big-name department stores like Sears and JCPenney, shopping malls

soon became an epicentre for retail convenience.

Fast-forward to today, and malls have become luxury destinations in their own right. No longer confined to suburbia, these luxury locations attract global fashion houses and Michelin-Star chefs, and contain life-size spectacles such as rollercoasters, Venetian canals, and aquariums. Here you can truly shop until you

drop, then recover in a full-service spa or recharge over a 12 course tasting menu.

THE DUBAI MALL, UAE

Located in downtown Dubai under the towering Burj Khalifa, The Dubai Mall is a piece of retail theatre. Along with an art museum, cinema, ice rink and one of the largest aquariums in the world, there are over 1,200

retail stores to enjoy. Make a beeline for Fashion Avenue, home to the likes of Bvlgari, Cartier, Chloé, Chopard, Christian Louboutin, Chaumet, and Van Cleef & Arpels. With hands-free shopping, a porter service and delivery anywhere within the UAE, you can shop with true abandon.

Hidden gem: for a frictionless visit, book Personal Shopping by ELITE. The mall's private, appointment-only service offers a calming suite, expert styling and exclusive brand access – effectively turning the mall into a private-shopping circuit without you having to lift a finger. thedubaimall.com ➤

Above: Dubai Mall is home to some of the world's premium luxury brands



Above: Dubai Mall Right: Westfield, close to Notting Hill
Below: The giant Mall of America

TOKYO MIDTOWN MALL, JAPAN

Located in the Roppongi arts district in South East Tokyo, fashion, architecture, landscaping and art are woven together. Here, in the electric energy of Japan's largest city, you can enjoy the calm of the 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT design museum (designed by Issey Miyake and Tadao Ando), or take afternoon tea at the mall's very own Ritz Carlton. The curated selection of stores includes Valextra, Manolo Blahnik and Harry Winston, but Midtown Mall is also an excellent place to buy things that feel distinctly Japanese rather than merely imported luxury. Look for Isetan Salone, Issey Miyake and boutique jewellers, Tasaki.

Hidden gem: located on the first floor of the mall's Galleria building, Comme des Garçons' Trading Museum invites visitors to explore vintage curiosity cabinets lined with rare and iconic designs from the brand's rich 57 year history.
tokyo-midtown.com



MALL OF AMERICA, USA

Having mentioned that North America is the birthplace of the modern mall, it seems only fitting to include the Mall of America, located in Burlington, Minnesota. First opened in the early 90s, over 40 million people visit annually to experience the largest mall in the United States, and what is American retail culture on a truly operatic scale.

With over 500 stores, its 1.2 million-gallon aquarium and Nickelodeon theme park, there's a lot of spectacle to see, but for the discerning shopper consider Nordstrom your safe haven. It's here you'll find Gucci, Burberry, Dior, and David Yurman.
mallofamerica.com

WESTFIELD LONDON, UK

Close to the leafy streets of Kensington and Notting Hill, Westfield London has evolved

beyond the stereotype of a typical suburban mall and is popular with tourists and locals alike. Its trump card is The Village, a dedicated luxury enclave that now reads like a condensed version of London's Bond Street. Think Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Prada, Tiffany & Co., Rolex, Omega and Bucherer.

The Village also offers valet parking and an all-important hands-free shopping experience.
westfield.com/en/united-kingdom/london

WEST EDMONTON MALL, CANADA

Unlike Alberta's humble rugged mountains and clear blue lakes, West Edmonton Mall is wonderfully, unapologetically excessive. With more than 800 stores and restaurants and a dozen-plus major attractions, it's less a shopping centre than

an enclosed city devoted to retail and entertainment. Here you'll find Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co, and Moncler, housed under the same roof as the world's largest indoor waterpark.
wem.ca

BEIJING SKP, CHINA

Situated in the Central Business District (CBD) and a stone's throw from the city's numerous five-star hotels, for the fashion aficionado, SKP Beijing is perhaps the most important shopping destination on this list. Designed to be at the forefront of culture, technology, and fashion, luxury is the Sun that SKP's stores orbit. The roster of brands on offer reads like a roll call of fashion's great houses: Hermès, Chanel, Dior, Gucci, Céline and Bottega Veneta sit alongside Cartier, Breguet and Piaget.

Hidden gem: across the street you'll find SKP-S, a concept store on a department-store scale. The space features a rotating curation of exhibitions and brand collaborations, plus the wormhole, a transitional tunnel designed by eyewear brand Gentle Monster and leading luxury architecture firm, Sybarite.
skp-beijing.com ■

