

WHERE TO SHOP

Shop at high-end boutiques, browse through a curated selection of local brands or enjoy a good deal at bargain-friendly stores. This shopping guide to the coolest places in town caters to all tastes

The façade of ION Orchard, the landmark shopping complex on Orchard Road

FASHION & JEWELLERY

EMBLEM The brand, known for its ballet flats, stands out for its high-quality shoes, which are handmade with leather. Expect complete comfort with flats that the brand claims feature 'in-built padding into the insole, which mould to your feet'. (www.emblemboutique.com)

ONG SHUNMUGAM

Designer Priscilla Ong is known for using Asian textiles and Indian and Chinese brocade to design contemporary womenswear. Her creations include embroidered cheongsams (traditional ankle-length Chinese dresses) and sarong dresses. Choose between ready-to-wear or custom-made clothes at her boutique. (www.ongshunmugam.com)

MYTHOLOGY If you're on the lookout for lesser-known labels from Asia, this store is a must visit. Pick a piece of wearable art

by local designer Lionelow or go for hand-perforated suede jackets from Balinese brand Off Duty. You can also opt for contemporary batik dresses by Kuala Lumpur-based Fern or silk kaftans from Indian brand Lailah Collection. (www.my-thology.com)

ZENCHI Fashion designer Zen's gowns made from Japanese silk and satin have got him the likes of Naomi Campbell, and local superstars Zoe Tay and Kit Chan as clients. He is known for creating custom pieces for select patrons and his ready-to-wear clothes can be altered here. (www.zenchicollection.com)

SHOPPING AT TIFFANY'S

Not high-end jewellery, but high-street fashion for women. Set up by Tiffany Maughan, this boutique has lesser-known brands from Australia, Asia and the US. You will find different styles in a variety of sizes at affordable prices. (www.shoppingattiffanys.com)



INSIDER TIPS ON CHILD-CENTRIC SPACES ROSHNI MAHTANI

Publisher, [theAsianparent.com](http://theasianparent.com)

Your go-to stores when shopping for the kids: **The Better Toy Store** (www.thebettertoystore.com) has a lot of non-mainstream, non-plastic toys and learning tools. And **Woods in the Books** (www.woodsinthebooks.sg)

in the Tiong Bahru area is a wonderful bookstore for kids. **The most family-friendly hotel:** **Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort & Spa** (www.shangri-la.com). It's near the beach and has great facilities for kids. And it's in Sentosa, which is packed with things for kids to do. **The place to go to when the kids want to have fun:** I enjoy going to **Gardens by the Bay** (www.gardensbythebay.com.sg) and the **Botanic Gardens** (www.sbg.org.sg) and the **East Coast Park** (www.nparks.gov.sg). The 'Future World - Where Art Meets Science' exhibition at the **ArtScience Museum** (00 65 6688 8888) is a personal favourite. And the **Singapore Zoo** (www.zoo.com.sg)—I'm yet to meet a kid who doesn't like animals.

Restaurants that are perfect for families: **Café Melba** (www.cafemelba.com.sg) for the good food and the kids' play area, **Lau Pa Sat Festival Market** (www.laupasat.biz) and the **Open Farm Community** (www.openfarmcommunity.com), for the delicious fresh food and the sand play area.

WHERE TO SHOP

MARILYN TAN

JEWELLERY Tan has over 20 years of experience handcrafting unique pieces made with semi-precious stones, silver and 18-carat white and yellow gold. Her creations are largely inspired by nature and her travels around the world. If you're looking for one-of-a-kind jewellery, look out for her cocktail rings and statement necklaces. (www.marilyntanjewellery.com.sg)

SARA TASEER FINE

JEWELLERY The former banker and founder of this popular chain is well known for her beautifully designed pieces. Taseer largely works with diamonds and precious stones to create a range of jewellery that includes oversized cocktail rings, pearl necklaces and rubber wristbands embellished with gemstones and brooches. (www.sarataseer.com)

CONCEPT STORES

ACTUALLY This is the place for all things quirky, from backpacks and sneakers to graphic tees. Its eclectic mix of brands includes popular local labels such as YESAH, Mae Pang and 20:twothree. (www.actually.sg)

DEER INDUSTRIES

Meant for kids of all age groups, this is a treasure trove of Europe-inspired products and home-décor items. Pick from themed bed sheets (firefighter for him and mermaid for her), baby accessories and funky backpacks. (www.deerindustries.com)

ROSE CITRON

Head here for handmade bags, accessories, soft furnishings or unique gifting options. In-house designer Zoe Borie experiments with colours and textures to create products that have a European design with a distinct Asian touch. Popular items include table runners and cushions. (www.rosecitron.wordpress.com)

THREADBARE & SQUIRREL

This boutique offers unique accessories—3D printed rings from Australia, wooden watches from the US—and clothing by regional brands. (00 65 6235 0680)

BOOKS

KINOKUNIYA At this Japanese bookstore, Manga titles share shelf space with American graphic novels and DC comics. You'll also discover hard-to-find publications here, with stock ranging from Chinese and local literature to music scores. The store hosts regular meet-the-author sessions as well. (www.kinokuniya.com.sg)

BOOKSACTUALLY

Kenny Leck's enchanting bookshop on Yong Siak Street boasts a carefully assembled range of titles—from poetry and art, to cookbooks and magazines. Venture to the back of the shop to find handmade stationery and vintage souvenirs. (www.booksactually.com)

WOODS IN THE BOOKS

A wide-ranging collection of picture books meant for young readers, this store in the Tiong Bahru neighbourhood is a great place to take the kids. (www.woodsinthebooks.sg)

HOME

COMMUNE This is the place to go if you're looking for well-designed pieces of wooden furniture with a minimalist and contemporary aesthetic. The shop is known for using sustainably sourced timber and other wood from the US, Europe and Southeast Asia. (www.thecommunelife.com)

ORIGINALS

Local homeware gets an innovative twist with Australian Geri Murphy's Originals. Her products include carved wooden Javanese-style daybeds, made from material recycled from old houses,

bright-blue cabinets from Rajasthan, bamboo lanterns, African baskets and dip-dyed linen throws. (www.originals.com.sg)

POMELO

The multi-brand store for well-designed contemporary furniture and home accessories, Pomelo showcases small, independent brands known for high-quality creations. (00 65 6226 4663)

JUNKIE'S CORNER

This Aladdin's cave is located near the Turf Club in a huge warehouse. Head here for rare finds and well-priced antiques. Search through the layers of marble-topped tables, Chinese vases, 1970s jukeboxes and apothecary cabinets. Bring cash and be prepared to haggle hard with the owner, Uncle Charlie. (00 65 9791 2607)

BAO YUAN TRADING

Tucked away behind cheap tourist stalls on Temple Street, a row of kitchenware shops sell a great selection of Chinese porcelain. Come here to stock your cupboards with blue fish rice bowls, brightly coloured vases and traditional tea sets. The collection includes one-off pieces such as squid-shaped chopstick rests and snail napkin holders at throwaway prices. (00 65 6227 1189)

SHOPPING STREETS

ORCHARD ROAD

Gilded malls dominate this 2.2km stretch. The iconic **TANGS at Tangs Plaza** (www.tangs.com), **Robinsons The Heeren** (www.robinsons.com.sg), **ION Orchard** (www.ionorchard.com), and the ever-popular **Far East Plaza** (www.fareastplaza.com.sg) are just a few. The Paragon Junior section at **Paragon Mall** (www.paragon.com.sg) is stocked with brands catering to children. The outpost of popular Japanese

department store, **Takashimaya** (www.takashimaya.com.sg) packs in international labels, while the basement offers artisanal chocolates, including Singapore's Laurent Bernard. For a wide selection of local brands, there's **Keepers** (www.keepers.com.sg), which features Carrie K's statement jewellery and hand-poured scented candles from A Dose of Something Good, among other labels.

AMOY STREET

A stroll down this hip street in the Central Business District will reveal a number of shops which offer a personal shopping experience. **House of Sheens** (www.houseofsheens.com) on the fourth floor of a refurbished shophouse offers an array of stylish handbags. For clothing, swimwear and accessories, visit multi-label store **Willow and Huxley** (www.willowandhuxley.com), which stocks brands from around the world, including Denmark, Sri Lanka, Africa and Malaysia.

BUGIS STREET MARKET

With over 800 stalls, the Bugis Street Market is known for being one of the cheapest places on the island to buy anything, from memorabilia to electronics. Key chains and trinkets start at S\$1 (₹46) and a pair of jeans costs just S\$10 (₹460). The fully shaded market ensures that the sometimes unpredictable Singapore weather doesn't get in the way of shopping. (3 Bugis Street)

HAJI LANE

This narrow street houses high-end stores that stock everything, from vintage clothing to bicycles and bikinis. **Tokyobike** (www.tokyobike.sg) has opened its first store outside Japan here. **Bella Kini** (www.bella-kini.com) is great for swimwear while **Mondays Off** (www.shopmondsoff.com) is for Scandinavian-inspired accessories and art.



INSIDER TIPS ON SHOPPING

SIMONE IRANI

Fashion designer

The shops for interesting home décor and funky jewellery: For jewellery, I like **Hanna Lee** (00 65 6463 2698), **SunMoonRain**

(www.sunmoonrain.sg) and **Nian Jewellery** (www.nianjewellery.com). For home décor, it's **Bungalow 55** (www.thebungalow55.com) and **Shiva Designs** (www.shivadesignsbespoke.com) in Cluny Court, **Asiatique Collections** (www.asiatiquecollections.com) and **Taylor B. Fine Design** (www.taylorbdesign.com) **Good design to you is...** Something with a colonial touch, like the Raffles Hotel or Peranakan shophouses. Singapore is home to some cool Art Deco buildings, like the Cathay Building and Capitol Theatre. **A lazy afternoon at your favourite beach:** You'd probably find me at the Tanjong Beach Club in Sentosa. On a weekday, when it is empty, you can chill on the daybeds while sipping on a refreshing cocktail. **The eateries where you go when you want to relax: PS. Cafe** (www.pscafe.com) on Orchard Road. It doesn't feel like you are in the heart of the city. **Blu Kouzina** (www.blukouzina.com) in Dempsey for the Greek food and the laid-back vibe.

Stacks of books and souvenirs at BooksActually

