

# Shopping

Cobbled streets lined with pretty boutiques, multi-floor centres and designer department stores: England's shopping is diverse and plentiful. Pick up unique purchases in Brighton, Norwich and Leeds, go antiques hunting in the Cotswolds and get lost in one of Westfield's giant malls.



> Westfield © visitlondonimages / Britainonview / Pawel Libera



> Vivienne Westwood © Britainonview



> Selfridges Manchester © Britainonview / Simon Winnall



> Harvey Nichols © Britainonview / Martin Brent

## 1 Westfield shopping centres

From designer boutiques to department stores, Westfield London shopping centre in White City/Shepherds Bush is the ultimate one-stop shopping destination. The only inner-city retail complex in England to rival its magnitude is sister centre Westfield Stratford City, which opened in 2011. Overlooking the Olympic Park, this new East London shopping hub also houses the UK's largest casino. Find smaller Westfield shopping centres in Derby, Dudley, Nottingham, Tunbridge Wells and Guilford.

<http://uk.westfield.com>

## 2 Clarks Village, Somerset

Sizeable discounts await at this pleasant open-air outlet complex. Shops include Denby Pottery, sailing and yachting clothing specialists Henri Lloyd and tea connoisseurs Whittard of Chelsea. While parents take their time browsing clothing and homeware, King Arthur's Castle play area entertains children with swings, turrets and dragon slides.

[www.clarksvillage.co.uk](http://www.clarksvillage.co.uk)

## 3 Metrocentre, NewcastleGateshead

This extensive shopping and entertainment complex sits three miles south of the far-northern city of Newcastle upon Tyne. Alongside its 330-strong mix of shops and department stores find an Odeon cinema, bowling lanes and even a dodgem track. Child-friendly services include outdoor play area Metrocentre Qube, and a free wristband that holds a mobile telephone number in case they get lost.

[www.metrocentre.uk.com](http://www.metrocentre.uk.com)

## 4 Designer shopping in Manchester

Cultural hub Manchester may be renowned for its musical heritage and famous football teams, but it is also one of the UK's major shopping destinations. In the centre find department stores Harvey Nichols and Selfridges, and designer boutiques on King Street. Five miles from the city centre, the Trafford Centre is a vast shopping mall with high-end favourites including Vivienne Westwood.



> Newcastle shopping © Critical Tortoise

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> Harrods © Britainonview / Juliet White



> Designer clothes © Britainonview / Simon Winnall



> Burberry © Britainonview / Joanna Henderson

## 5 Antique shopping in the Cotswolds

The quaint villages and ancient towns of the Cotswolds are a treasure trove for antiques lovers. Particularly rewarding destinations for antiques include the charming market towns of Tetbury and Stow-on-the-Wold. Tetbury is renowned for turning up wonderful 17th, 18th and 19th century furniture, while Stow-on-the-Wold specialises in valuable pieces.

[www.visittetbury.co.uk](http://www.visittetbury.co.uk)

[www.stowonthewold.net](http://www.stowonthewold.net)

## 6 Harrods

Harrods is the gold stamp of luxury shopping in England. This towering palatial emporium at the heart of affluent London borough Knightsbridge provides floor upon floor of high-end indulgence. Peruse the world's most prized names in designer clothing, handbags, fragrance and jewellery, and delve into the illustrious Food Hall for a true gourmand's delight. Stock up on British pâtés, fine wine and cheese, delectable confectionery and a wealth of other equally alluring cuisine.

[www.harrods.com](http://www.harrods.com)

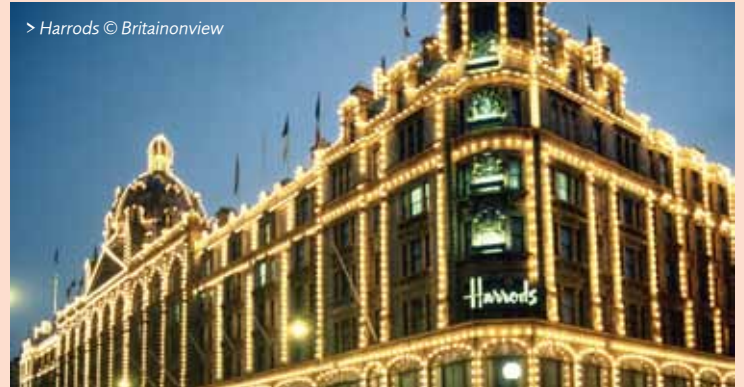
## 7 Brighton's Lanes

Brighton's lively Lanes wind from the station to the sea and offer truly eclectic shopping. Head to bohemian North Laine for vegetarian shoes, retro fashion, independent record stores and fresh organic produce. In the South Lanes find a twinkling jewellery quarter and delectable patisseries. Rest tired feet at a pavement-side café and enjoy some colourful people-watching.

[www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com)



> Leeds © Britainonview / Pawel Libera



> Harrods © Britainonview

## 8 Victoria Quarter, Leeds

Opulent offerings from Louis Vuitton, Mulberry, Paul Smith and Vivienne Westwood are housed in the ornate Victoria Quarter in Leeds. The impressively restored 19th-century buildings are detailed with marble, mosaics and wrought iron. Slicing into the rusty brick hues is the sheer glass facade of the first Harvey Nichols store to open outside London.

<http://www.visitleeds.co.uk/things-to-do/thedms.aspx?dms=13&venue=2191850>

## 9 The Shambles, York

Step back in time amid the timber beams and well-trodden cobbles of this impeccably preserved ancient street in the centre of York. The Shambles is lined with authentic 14th- and 15th-century architecture, which today houses small shops selling souvenirs, trinkets and local produce. This historic street dates back to the Middle Ages and even received a mention in the Domesday Book.

[www.visityork.org](http://www.visityork.org)

## 10 Boutique shopping

Pretty lanes and preserved historic facades make many of England's smaller city centres a fittingly refined setting for boutique shops. Meander through the spa city of Bath for family-run shops selling everything from exquisite jewellery to fine cheese, while nearby Cheltenham's Bath Road is lined with intriguing finds. Further north, Chester's Rows are filled with history and high-fashion. In the southern city of Winchester find independent shops and boutiques in the pedestrian-friendly streets surrounding its magnificent gothic cathedral.

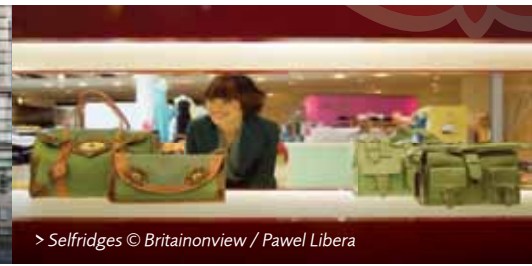
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> Alexander McQueen © visitlondonimages / Britainonview



> Fortnum & Mason © Britainonview / Eric Nathan



> Selfridges © Britainonview / Pawel Libera

## 11 Selfridges at the Bullring

Selfridges' Birmingham store is statement fashion in itself, revered the world over for its eye-catching design. Inspired by a sequin dress by Franco-Spanish fashion designer Paco Rabanne, the curving structure is swathed in sapphire-blue and covered in 15,000 aluminium disks. Since opening in 2003, it has been showcased as a must-see piece of modern architecture. Inside is Selfridges' trademark selection of luxury brands such as Mulberry, Gucci and Vivienne Westwood.

[www.bullring.co.uk](http://www.bullring.co.uk)

## 12 Harvey Nichols

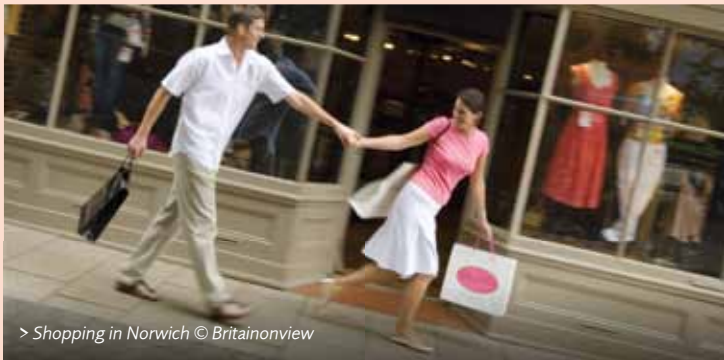
This luxury emporium of fashion, beauty, fragrance and food is famed for its quality products and eye-catching window displays. At its flagship London store, find a chic international crowd perusing the likes of Burberry, Alexander McQueen and British singer Lily Allen's label Lucy in Disguise. Harvey Nichols has opened smaller stores in Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol. A Nottingham branch is planned for 2012/13.

[www.bullring.co.uk](http://www.bullring.co.uk)

## 13 Fortnum & Mason

Having made their name supplying luxury picnic hampers to Victorian high society, Fortnum & Mason's multi-floor department store today spans clothing accessories, toys, beauty products and homeware. After exploring the elegant building in London's Piccadilly, indulge in afternoon tea or a more formal meal at fourth-floor St James' Restaurant.

[www.fortnumandmason.com](http://www.fortnumandmason.com)



> Shopping in Norwich © Britainonview

## 14 Royal Purveyors

Stock up on the British brands bearing the royal seal of approval. Documenting the best in British, the Royal Purveyors is the voice of authority on noteworthy British products. Acclaimed names include luxury fashion house Burberry, upmarket suit specialist Austin Reed and acclaimed London perfume house Penhaligon's. Less publicised British brands with interesting heritage are also championed, each highlighted in features on the Royal Purveyors website.

[www.theroyalpurveyors.com](http://www.theroyalpurveyors.com)



> The Shambles, York © Britainonview

## Hidden Gems

### 16 Vintage shopping in Norwich

The intriguing alleyways and pretty shop fronts of the Norwich Lanes are a haven for colourful vintage clothing and accessories. Amid these medieval streets find stylish boutiques proffering a wide and eclectic range of vintage pieces. Picks include Prim Vintage on St Benedicts Street and Antidote Vintage Fashion on Upper St Giles Street.

[www.visitnorwich.co.uk](http://www.visitnorwich.co.uk)

### 17 Bicester Village, Oxfordshire

Well-heeled shoppers hunt for designer bargains in the pretty boutiques filled with high-end brands that line Bicester Village's pedestrianised walkways. This Oxfordshire shopping destination is one for the label-lover. Find global brands alongside Britain's biggest names in fashion, such as Alexander McQueen, Burberry Womenswear, Paul Smith and Temperley London.

[www.bicestervillage.com](http://www.bicestervillage.com)