

Whimbeads.com presents...



Retail Therapy in San Diego Neighborhoods

Gaslamp Quarter - Just blocks from our host hotel, The Embassy Suites!

Downtown San Diego's thriving and well-known historic district, [Gaslamp Quarter](#), is home to many uber-popular restaurants, bars, galleries, theatres and coffeehouses, but it also boasts great boutique shopping. Whether your shopping list is uptown-chic or downtown-cool the 5th Avenue block has a variety of opportunities.

For women's fashions and accessories, make sure your itinerary includes: Bubbles Boutique, Heavenly Couture (with a teen collection too) and Eden Boutique. For both men and women's fashions check out G-Star Raw, Tatyana Boutique and Dolcetti Boutique. More mainstream shopping also includes PUMA, MAC (for make-up), Lucky Brand Store, Urban Outfitters and many more retail gems.

Little Italy

Another bona fide shopping hub is the electric neighborhood of [Little Italy](#). Great blocks include Fir & India Street, the 400 block of West Cedar Street and the 2000 block of Kettner Boulevard. This area is a treasure trove of shopping including women's, men's and children's fashions, jewelry, accessories, antiques, art, interiors, furniture and home goods. For home shopping, explore Love and Aesthetics, Vitreum, Boomerang, India Street Antiques, Antiques on Kettner and the French Garden Shoppe. And for fashion and jewelry, try Rosa Mariposa, Azzurra Capri, Vocabulary Boutique and The Shopaholics Boutique. Little Italy also has many restaurants, wine bars, cafes and gastro pubs to help re-fuel after shopping.

Mission Hills

The charming area of Mission Hills offers many local boutiques, salons, great cafes, wine bars, and dog-friendly restaurants. The 1600 block of West Lewis Street and the 900 block of Fort Stockton Dr. is a must shop area. Here you'll find a host of great boutiques including With Love, LeBelAge, ChateauBelAge, Emma Jane Boutique, The Dress Theory, and the Hillside Artisan's Children Boutique. For jewelry check out Taboo Studio and for gourmet specialty foods and products, try Maison en Provence, The Front Porch and Venissimo Cheese.

North Park & South Park

For the hip and happening local scene, the place to be are the North Park and South Park neighborhoods along 30th Street and University as well as 30th Street and Fern. Both areas offer a diversified variety of restaurants, coffee houses, dessert bars, bars, vintage stores and colorful boutiques. For fashion, try Mimi & Red, Love & Aesthetics (for men), Aloha Sunday Supply Co., Hunt & Gather (vintage), Ms. Vintage Clothing Boutique, Mythology Boutique, JuncLife, Bad Madge, and Graffiti Beach Boutique. Home stores to check out include Urban Renewal, Make Good and HOME.

La Jolla

[La Jolla](#), known as San Diego's jewel by the sea, is one of the best up-scale shopping areas in San Diego. It is also home to great ocean view restaurants, cafes and art galleries. A couple of noteworthy shopping blocks you will not want to miss are Prospect Street then on to Girard Avenue. Here's you'll find fashion and great shopping for the whole family. For women, be sure to make time for Robina Boutique , Kerut, Simple, Pomegranate Boutique, Blended Industries, Sauvage Boutique, Sigi's, Eva Varro International, La Donna, Laura Gambucci and Rica Boutique (also for teens). For men, there's the Ascot Shop, Ralph Lauren and Lucky Brand. For Children, there's Hillside Artisan's Children's' Boutique and Geppetto's Toys. And, for pets (we did say the “whole” family) stop by Muttropolis.

For contemporary home furnishings try MOS and finally, don't miss Warwick's Book Store, one of the best independent book stores around.

Cedros Design District

Cedros Design District is a shopper's Mecca when it comes to a variety of interests. This quaint dog-friendly area contains blocks of restaurants, cafes, galleries, garden stores, fashion boutiques, art, and custom-designed furniture studios to speak to the true artistic visitor. Great boutiques include HIS Men's Store, Gerhard, Rebecca Norman, Tucci Boutique, Pink Lagoon, Cedros Soles, Mabel's, SOLO, Sala Joya Jewelry, Something Madd, and Camellia Boutique. The Leaping Lotus features 115 shops under one roof including clothes, jewelry and furniture. And the Cedros Gardens and Bon Bon are must stops for home furnishings.

Encinitas

Drive just five miles north from Cedros Design District, along the gorgeous Highway 101 coastline, to the cozy surf area of Encinitas. Home to Nixon watches & accessories, this Zen beach community extends casual restaurants, sidewalk cafes, yoga studios, and intermingled with quaint boutiques. The shopping block on the main road, South Highway 101, offers The Lumberyard Shopping Center and a collection of cool boutiques including Pink Soul, Flashbacks (vintage), Plum and ICONS. Fun home stores include Earth's Elements, Gardenology, and Plum.