



A shopping trip Around the World

by Christie Judson

Style mavens with a penchant for travel will undoubtedly admit they have spent many hours fantasizing about a dream shopping trip to some of the world's greatest fashion meccas and shopping hot spots.

But with more travel choices than there are crystals on a Swarovski trunk, where to begin?

With the help of Scarlett Ballantyne – a Vancouver-based fashion stylist and personal shopper – we nailed down the top five classic fashion destinations that will empty your pocket and blow your mind.

1. NEW YORK CITY

Home to the lion's share of American fashion houses, New York City has been setting world fashion trends since the early 1900s.

With a fashion industry that boasts \$14 billion in annual sales and one of the most famous shopping streets on the planet, N.Y.C. gets our top pick.

Arguably New York's most fashionable neighbourhood, a stroll through Gansevoort

Market (the Meatpacking District) is worth the trip alone. However, not to be missed is world-famous Fifth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan. In addition to landmark stores such as Bergdorf Goodman, Harry Winston and Saks Fifth Avenue, it is home to an array of big name designer stores including Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Versace and Prada.

But don't forget your wallet. Not only is it one of the world's best known streets, it is consistently ranked one of the most expensive places to shop in the world.

While Ballantyne notes her favourite place to shop is along Broome Street in SoHo, venturesome fashionistas should check out West Broadway's What Goes Around Comes

Around, a unique boutique that features men's and women's vintage accessories and apparel.

N.Y.C. must-have: *Metallic Python Drawstring "Hobo" Bag by Coach, \$598*

2. LOS ANGELES

At the pinnacle of California glitz and glamour is, of course, Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

From Gucci to Chanel, nearly every known label and retailer is represented in a handy three-block stretch of boutiques. If nothing else, it's the place to see and be seen.

Affordable and trendy, the L.A. Fashion District is a must stop on the fashion trail. It spans more than 100 blocks and offers apparel and accessories for the entire family. For great bargains, be sure to hit the festival feel of popular "Santee Alley."

Ballantyne's top LA pick: The CUSP store by Neman Marcus located in Century City on Santa Monica Boulevard. From elegant to glam, this trendy women's apparel store



Beryll Vintage Asphalt Boots, L.A. must-have

continued

offers some of the best new and known designer labels, including Diane von Furstenberg, 7 For All Mankind, Alice + Olivia and Ella Moss at relatively affordable prices. Can't get away? Shop online at www.cusp.com

L.A. must-have: Vintage Asphalt Boots by Beryll, \$590

3. MILAN

Like N.Y.C., Milan is considered one of the true fashion capitals of the world.

Lined with gorgeous boutiques and high-end designer stores, the city's most luxurious shopping district is known as Quadrilatero della moda (quadrilateral of fashion).

Located in the heart of the city, discerning shoppers will find Italy's most-beloved designer labels, including Armani, Dolce & Gabbana, Roberto Cavalli, Valentino and Versace.

But be sure to try your luck at finding Milan's coveted designer outlets. While they are sometimes hard to spot, a heavily discounted Ferragamo handbag is worth the hunt.

Ballantyne's top pick is the shopping area surrounding the Duomo di Milano, one of Europe's most famous and awe-inspiring cathedrals. There, she says, you can find fabulous dresses, jewellery and unique accessories that "look very European but won't break the bank."

Milan must-have: Classic Armani Suit, \$1,395

4. PARIS

As every fashionista knows, Paris is one of the world's premier shopping cities.

Its streets are not only chock full of exquisite shops and boutiques, but the city's architecture will take any frenzied shopper's breath away.

The most famous department store in the city is Galeries Lafayette. Built in 1893, it offers an extraordinary selection of jewellery, cosmetics, accessories, gifts and apparel.

In addition to the luxury shopping area of Avenue Montaigne and Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Ballantyne recommends hitting a Paris flea market – such as Porte de Clignancourt's famous "Les Puces" (The Fleas) – for rare and unique vintage jewelry, scarves and accessories.

Paris must-have: Cashmere Shawl by Hermès, \$990

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5. LONDON

An international shopping trip would not be complete without a stop in London to shop at Harrods, the world-famous luxury department store located in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Originally established as a small grocery store, today Harrods has more than 300 departments and

is best known for its fragrance and beauty products, fashion accessories, gifts and high-end apparel. Highlighted brands include Stella McCartney, Nina Ricci, Escada, Ralph Lauren, True Religion and Diesel.

Another must-stop is Savile Row, a street in Mayfair, Central London, famous for its traditional bespoke tailoring. Known as the "golden mile of tailoring," it is home to a range of traditional and contemporary tailors, including Davies and Son (est. 1803) and Evisu jean company.

For fabulous streetwear, Ballantyne suggests "ditching the High Street" and heading to London's independent boutiques such as Bread & Honey, Aime, and the Dover Street Market.

London must-have: "Suki" Cocktail Dress by Mina UK, \$120 ⓘ

Want to travel light without sacrificing style?

Fashion stylist **Scarlett Ballantyne** picks the top 10 items every style maven should have at the ready for her next big getaway:

1. **A great tote bag** – perfect for day tripping and to use as carry-on luggage

2. **A strappy pair of flat sandals** – chic but comfortable for all day shopping

3. **A jazzy pair of heels** – instant glamour

4. **Great-fitting jeans** – dress up at night with jewellery and heels

5. **A sweater wrap** – wrap different ways for variation

6. **A classic white top** – dress up with jewelry or belt with leggings for a more casual look

7. **A white tank top** – on its own, or spice up an outfit using a layering effect

8. **A wrinkle-resistant short dress** – wear with heels at night and with leggings and flats during the day

9. **A small clutch** – use as a wallet during the day and a handbag at night

10. **Body bronzer** – add a light glow to any outfit



Scarlett Ballantyne



Suki dress by Mina, London must-have

