

Shopping

getaway



PHILIPPINES

JUST LOVE
TO SHOP?

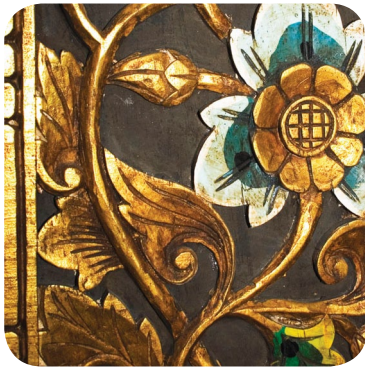


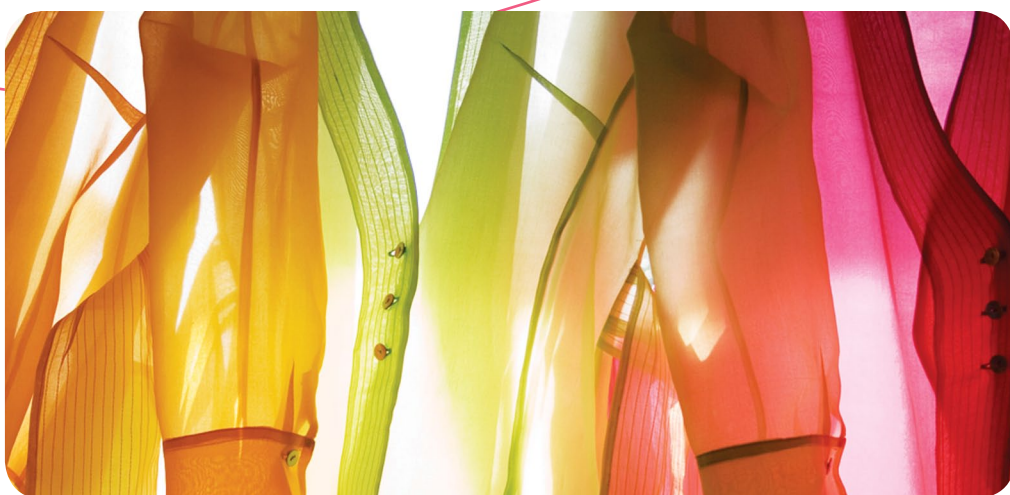
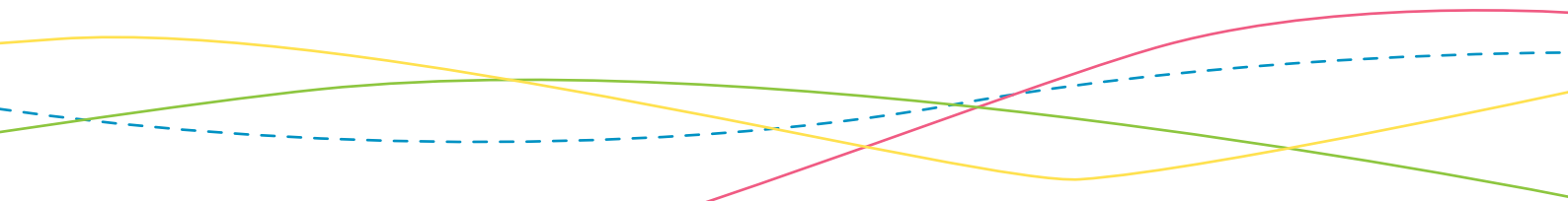


Time to get the girls together and plan a shopping getaway to Manila. It's only 7.5 hours away, everyone speaks English and the megapolis is crammed with shopping hot spots that buzz with activity day and night.

Manila means affordable retail therapy at its best. It's your chance to renew the entire wardrobe, splash out on accessories and spruce up the home, guilt-free! Your shopping dollar goes a long, long way here.

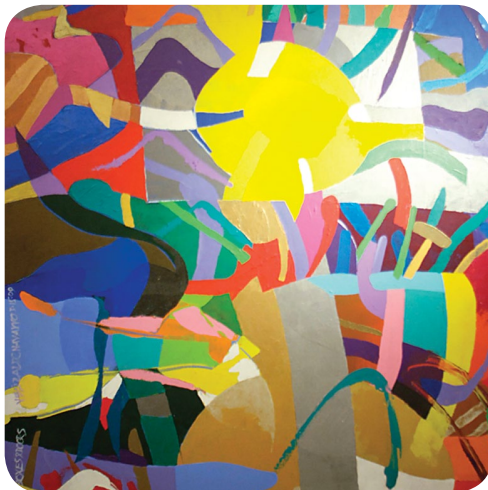
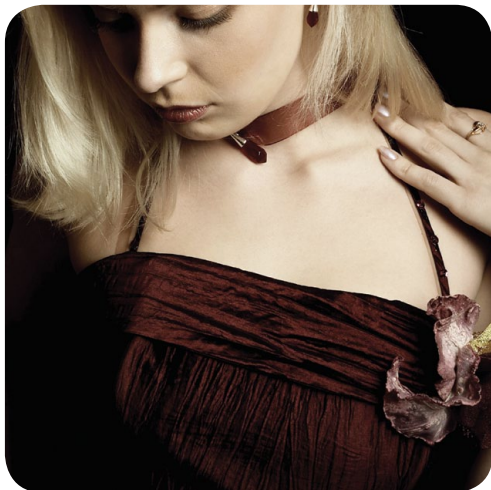






The quintessential mall capital of Asia is undoubtedly Manila. Filipinos are born shoppers and to their delight, spectacular mall complexes that try to outdo each other in looks, shopping and entertainment options continue to multiply across the metropolitan sprawl.

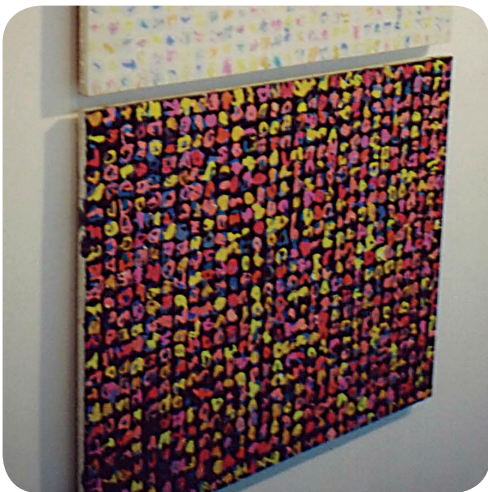
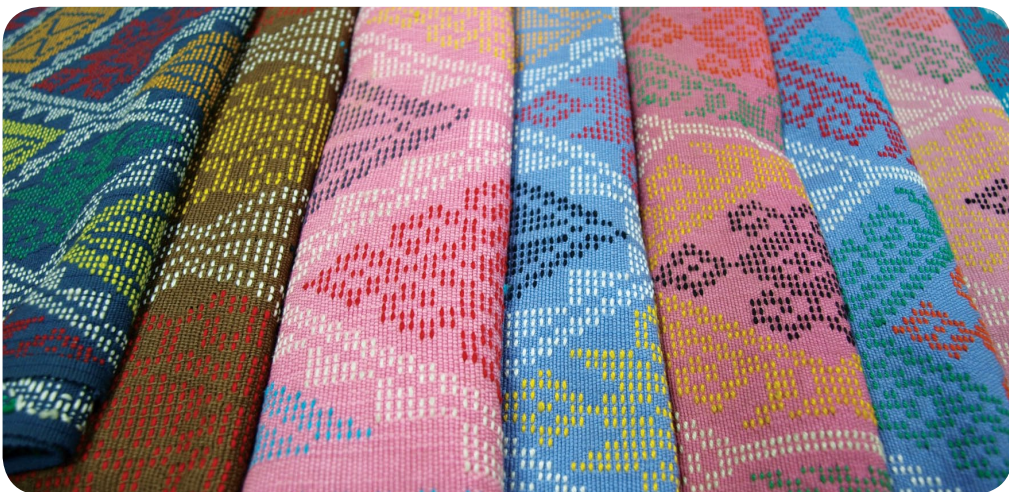
In the premier business precinct of Makati are the expansive upscale malls of Glorietta, Greenbelt and Power Plant. The Ortigas district has SM Megamall, Robinson's Galleria and Shangri-La Plaza. The latest addition is the SM Mall of Asia, built on a 60-hectare property overlooking Manila Bay. It's said to be the third largest mall in the world.

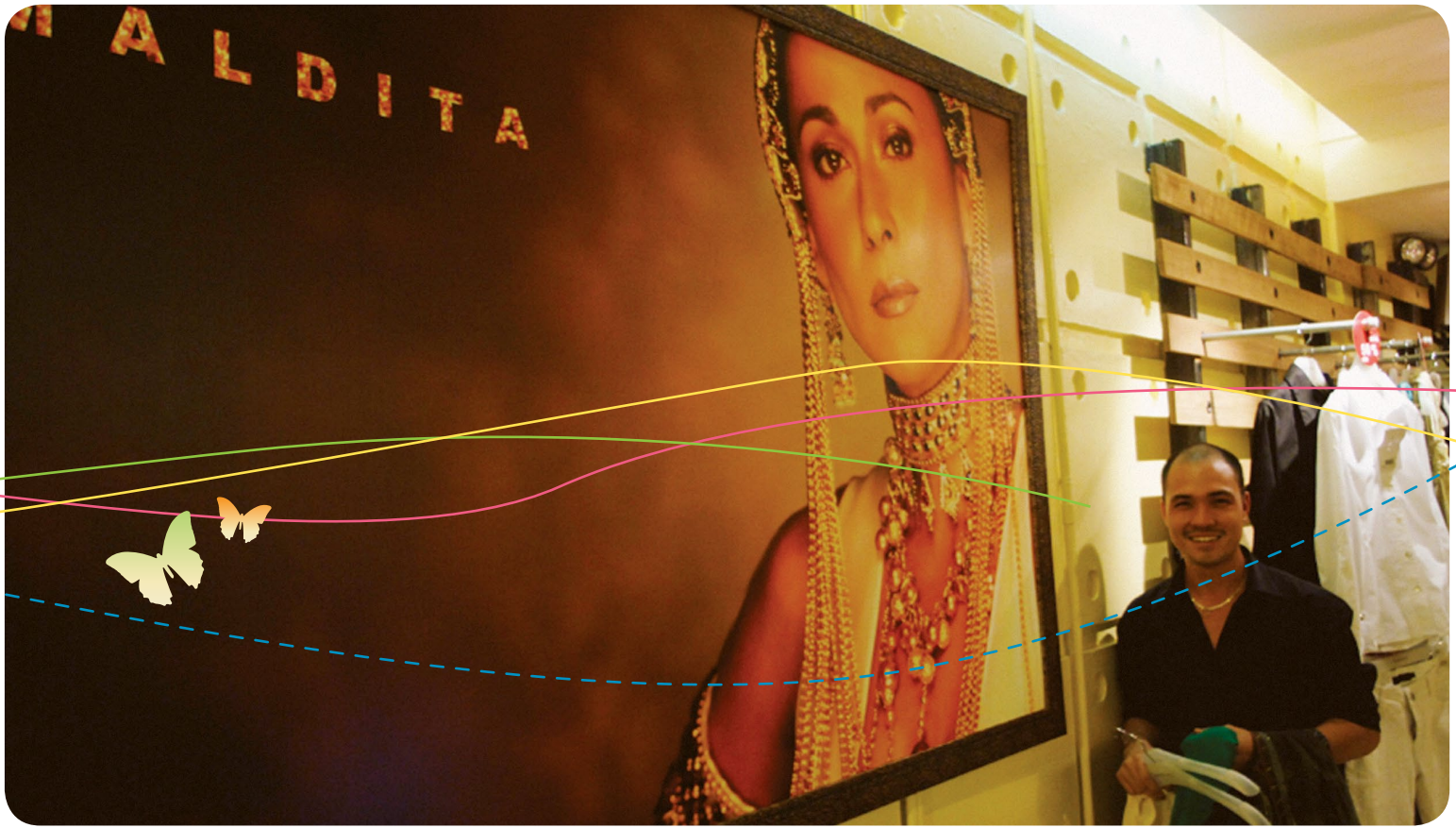


The malls are home to major department stores like Rustan's, Shoemart and Landmark, as well as luxury brand shops, funky concept stores, specialty boutiques, lifestyle shops and art galleries.

Manila has a late night culture enthusiastically embraced by the malls with typical trading hours spanning 10am to 9pm. With gourmet restaurants, swish cafes, hair salons, and live entertainment under the same roof, you can happily lose entire days in any of the city's famed malls.





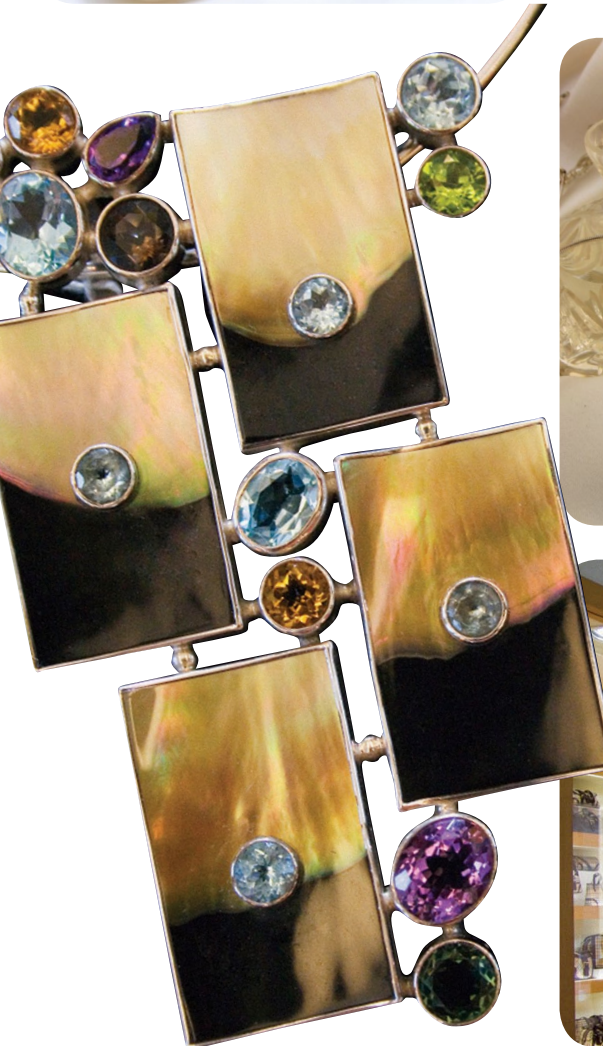


LUXURY SHOPPING



Filipinos are sophisticated, fashion-savvy shoppers fascinated by famous designer brands. So save yourself a trip to New York, London, Paris and Milan because just about every label is here.

High fashion lovers can indulge in their favourites because Manila is the most inexpensive luxury shopping destination in Asia. Couture classics or cutting edge RTW apparel, along with must-have shoes and accessories can be had from the swanky boutiques of Prada, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Ermenegildo Zegna, Armani, Feraud, DKNY, Escada, Sonia Rykiel and Kenzo to name a few.





Not to be overlooked are Manila's many elegant haute couture houses. They thrive on the patronage of the country's A-list, some of whose loyalty dates back three generations. A custom-made ball gown, cocktail dress or wedding finery by one of Manila's established or young couturiers is the best value haute couture in Asia.



A decorative graphic featuring several curved lines in green, yellow, pink, and blue. Two butterflies, one orange and one green, are positioned near the bottom center. The text 'S SHOES SHOES' is partially visible at the bottom left, and a black shoe is partially visible at the bottom right.



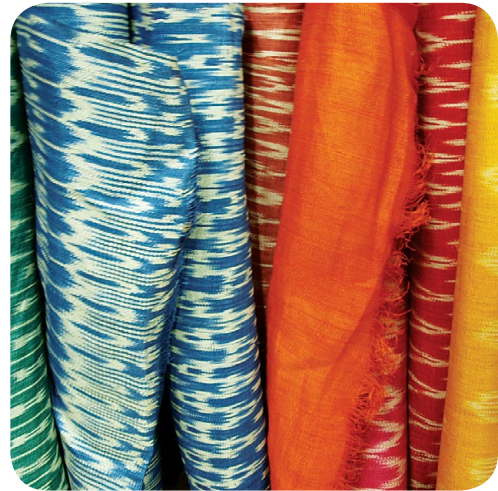


It's true, Filipinos simply love them. The Philippines is a major shoe exporter to the US and other countries. The Manila suburb of Marikina is the country's shoe and bag capital boasting 600 registered shoemakers.

Local shoe designers are right on the pulse of what's hot abroad. You'll find gorgeous shoes with matching bags just about everywhere. Those with size-challenged feet need not despair as the major department stores as well as specialty labels cater to sizes 10-12.



BARGAIN SHOPPING





No visit to Manila is complete without experiencing the bustling street and covered markets, which offer endless surprises for adventurous shoppers. Try your hand at some good-natured haggling and walk away with some enviable finds.

Famous personalities including European royalty shop in the markets incognito. They're often on a treasure hunt for fine South Sea pearls that sell for half the price in London or New York.

Locally known as "tiangges", flea markets are incredibly popular and have mushroomed all over Metro Manila. It's not unusual to see theme markets in the open areas of the major malls.

There are at least three "tiangge" seasons every year, so make sure you catch one. The biggest is held during the Christmas period when there could be up to 1,000 markets swamped with frantic gift buyers.

At the open-air markets of Baclaran and Divisoria, shoppers will find shoes and bags galore amidst clothing, watches, home décor, toys and souvenirs for at least a third of the price in the malls.



HOT HOT SPOTS

GREENHILLS fuses the comfort of mall shopping with a flea market atmosphere. It's the premier destination for pearls of different grades, semi precious stones and costume jewellery, as well as export quality furniture and home wares, computer and phone products. Greenhills alone hosts over ten "tiangges" year-round.

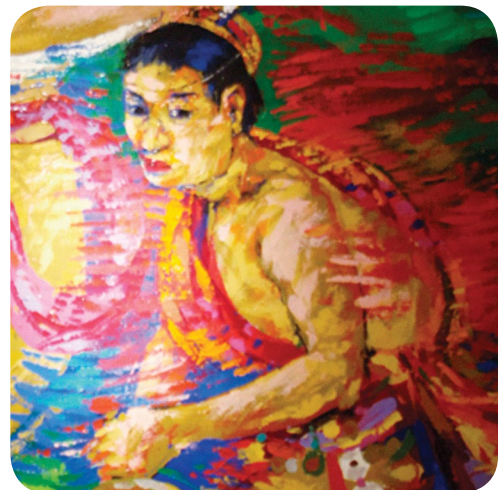
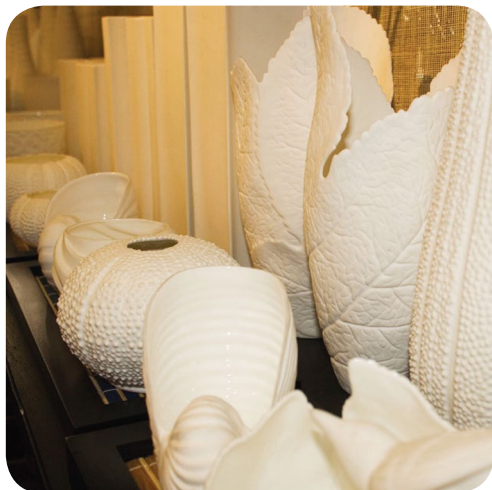
MARKET! MARKET! brings together mainstream retailers, discount outlets and wholesalers in one multi-level mall. You'll find great buys, from branded fashion to digital gadgets.

DIVISORIA specialises in textiles, but you'll be able to find everything under the sun in this huge, chaotic marketplace. Prices are at wholesale, but it's possible to purchase single items.

TUTUBAN CENTER has a fantastic range of goods including local handicrafts. The main attraction here is its cluster building where imported goods, mainly from Asia, are sold.

BACLARAN is great for inexpensive T-shirts, ready-to-wear especially children's clothes, watches, shoes and bags as well as goods from other Asian countries.

DON'T GO HOME
WITHOUT...





Among the best buys in Manila are things uniquely Filipino.

Make Tiendesitas your first stop for the best of Philippine products. This 30,000 square metre market has 12 pavilions clustered together village-style. Here you'll find furniture, ceramics, antiques, shellcraft, footwear, garments, leather goods and even Philippine delicacies.

For inexpensive handicrafts and souvenirs, the marketplace under the bridge in Quiapo offers indigenous crafts such as wood carvings, tribal jewellery, baskets and earthenware.

Antique lovers and those in search of unique decor can rummage through the old wares shops of Ermita, Makati and San Juan for relics, vintage jewellery, furniture, religious icons, altar pieces, ceramics, and brassware.

Back at the malls, choice buys like exquisitely embroidered tableware, silk finery, objets d'art, and luxurious South Sea pearls beckon.

Few can resist the internationally famous "barong Tagalog". The traditional Philippine shirt is made with translucent pineapple fibre fabric and features the finest hand embroidery. The "barong" is beautiful formal wear for men and women alike.

ESSENTIAL INFO

ENTRY REGULATIONS

Except for stateless persons and those from countries with which the Philippines has no diplomatic relations, all visitors may enter the country without visas and may stay for 21 days provided they have tickets for onward journey.

AIRPORT FEES

PhP 750 for international departure and PhP 200 for local departure (paid in Philippine pesos only).

CUSTOMS

Visitors carrying more than US\$ 10,000 (or its equivalent in other foreign currency) are to declare the amount at the Central Bank of the Philippines counter at the Customs area.

Foreign currency taken out upon departure must not exceed the amount brought in. Visitors are not allowed to bring in and out more than PhP 10,000 in local currency.

CLIMATE

March to May is hot and dry. June to October is rainy. November to February is cool. Average temperatures: 78°F/25°C to 90°F/32°C; humidity: 77%.

TIME ZONE

GMT plus 8 hours.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Philippine peso, divided into 100 centavos.

Most foreign currencies can be easily exchanged at banks, hotels, and authorised foreign exchange dealers. Outside Manila, the use of Philippine pesos for payments is preferred.

Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, resorts, shops and restaurants.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

A certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is required for travellers coming from infected areas. Children less than one year old are exempted but may be subject to isolation when necessary.

LANGUAGE

Filipino is the national language. English is the business language and spoken widely. Approximately 111 languages and dialects are spoken in the country.

WHAT TO WEAR

Light, casual clothes are recommended. Warmer garments are needed for mountain regions. When visiting churches and temples, propriety dictates that shorts and scanty clothing be avoided.

WATER

Water in Metro Manila and in key cities and towns is potable and safe for drinking.

ELECTRICITY

220 volts, A.C. 60 cycles. Most hotels have 110-volt outlets.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

Metered and fixed rate taxis are widely available in key cities. Car and coach hires are available in major cities. Jeepneys and buses are inexpensive ways of getting around most places.

BUSINESS HOURS

Private and government offices are open either from 8am to 5pm or from 9am to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays. Most shopping hubs are open from 10am to 8pm daily. There are 24-hour convenience stores and chemists. Banks are open from 9am to 3pm, Mondays to Fridays.

TIPPING

Tipping is expected for many services; the standard is 10% of the bill. It's optional on bills that already include a 10% service charge.



For more information contact your travel agent or:

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