

SHOPPING

top picks

- Herboristeria del Rei (p154)
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If your doctor has prescribed an intense round of shopping therapy to deal with the blues, then Barcelona is the place. Across Ciutat Vella (Barri Gòtic, El Raval and La Ribera), l'Eixample and Gràcia is spread a thick mantle of countless boutiques, historic shops, original one-off stores, gourmet corners, wine dens and more designer labels than you can shake your gold card at. You name it, you'll find it here, anything from chocolate to Mango.

Barcelona is undoubtedly a style city and this is evident in its flagship design stores (such as Vinçon and Cubiña) – whether you are looking for homewares, gifts or decoration. Even the souvenirs have flair. Fashion, in the broadest possible sense, occupies a sizable wedge of the city's retail space. Local names such as Mango, Custo Barcelona, Antonio Miró and Purificación García jostle side by side with big Spanish names in *haute couture* and *prêt-à-porter* (such as Zara and Adolfo Domínguez). There is no shortage of French, Italian and international fashion either, with most of the major brands on show. Almost every taste is catered to, with loads of youthful designers, club and streetwear, grunge dealers and secondhand operators.

Stylish department stores, local and imported, are scattered about the centre of town. The biggest name is El Corte Inglés.

Look around and compare prices. They are generally inflated in high-end boutiques on or around Passeig de Gràcia, although you may still find better prices than for the same items in your home city.

For high fashion, design, jewellery and several department stores, the principal shopping axis starts on Plaça de Catalunya, proceeds up Passeig de Gràcia and turns left (west) into Avinguda Diagonal, along which it proceeds as far as Plaça de la Reina Maria Cristina. The densely packed section between Plaça de Francesc Macià and Plaça de la Reina Maria Cristina is an especially good hunting ground.

The heart of l'Eixample, bisected by chic Passeig de Gràcia, is known as the Quadrat d'Or (Golden Sq; the boulevard itself is known as the Milla d'Or, or Golden Mile) and is jammed with all sorts of glittering shops. Passeig de Gràcia has developed into a who's who of international shopping (Armani, Bulgari, Cartier, Bang & Olufsen, Max Mara, Ermengildo Zegna, Hermès, Tommy Hilfiger, Gucci, Chanel and Hugo Boss are just some of the tenants).

The heart of the Barri Gòtic has always been busy with small-scale merchants, but the area has come crackling to life since the mid-1990s, and local shopkeepers like to think of the whole area as 'Barnacentre'. Some of the most curious old stores, whether purveyors of hats or of candles, lurk in the narrow lanes around Plaça de Sant Jaume. The once-seedy Carrer d'Avinyó has become a minor young-fashion boulevard. Antique stores line Carrer de la Palla and Carrer dels Banys Nous.

CLOTHING SIZES

Women's clothing

Aus/UK	8	10	12	14	16	18
Europe	36	38	40	42	44	46
Japan	5	7	9	11	13	15
USA	6	8	10	12	14	16

Women's shoes

Aus/USA	5	6	7	8	9	10
Europe	35	36	37	38	39	40
France only	35	36	38	39	40	42
Japan	22	23	24	25	26	27
UK	3½	4½	5½	6½	7½	8½

Men's clothing

Aus	92	96	100	104	108	112
Europe	46	48	50	52	54	56
Japan	5		M	M	L	
UK/USA	35	36	37	38	39	40

Men's shirts (collar sizes)

Aus/Japan	38	39	40	41	42	43
Europe	38	39	40	41	42	43
UK/USA	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½

Men's shoes

Aus/UK	7	8	9	10	11	12
Europe	41	42	43	44½	46	47
Japan	26	27	27½	28	29	30
USA	7½	8½	9½	10½	11½	12½

Measurements approximate only, try before you buy

La Ribera is a nothing less than a gourmand's delight. Great old stores and some finger-licking newbies deal in speciality foodstuffs, from coffee and chocolate to cheese. Amid such wonderful aromas, a crop of fashion and design stores (particularly along Carrer del Rec between Passeig del Born and Avinguda del Marquès de l'Argentera, and side streets) caters to the multitude of yuppies who have moved into the *barri* (neighbourhood).

In El Raval you'll discover old-time stores that are irresistible to browsers, and a colourful array of affordable, mostly secondhand clothes boutiques. The central axis here is Carrer de la Riera Baixa, which plays host to everything from '70s threads to military cast-offs. Carrer dels Tallers is also attracting a growing number of clothes and shoe stores (although CDs and musical instruments remain its core business).

Art galleries, designer outlets and quality bookstores all huddle together along the streets running east of the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (Macba) towards La Rambla.

Gràcia is also full of quirky little shops. In particular, check out Carrer de Verdi for anything from clothes to bric-a-brac.

Barcelona certainly has no shortage of shopping malls. One of the first to arrive was **L'illa del Diagonal** (Map pp122–3; ☎ 93 444 00 00; www.lilla.com; Avinguda Diagonal 549; 📍 Maria Cristina), designed by star Spanish architect Rafael Moneo. The **Centre Comercial Diagonal Mar** (Map pp98–9; ☎ 902 530300; www.diagonalmar.com; Avinguda Diagonal 3; 📍 El Maresme Forum) by the sea is one of the latest additions. The city's other emporia include: **Centre Comercial de les Glòries** (Map pp98–9; ☎ 93 486 04 04; www.lesglories.com; Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes; 📍 Glòries), in the former Olivetti factory; **Heron City** (☎ 902 401144; www.heroncitybarcelona.com; Passeig de Rio de Janeiro 42; 📍 Fabra i Puig), just off Avinguda de la Meridiana, about 4km north of Plaça de les Glòries Catalanes; and the **Centre Comercial Gran Via 2** (off Map pp140–1; ☎ 902 301444; www.granvia2.com; Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 75; 📍 FGC Ildefons Cerdà) in l'Hospitalet.

In general, shops are open between 9am or 10am and 1.30pm or 2pm and then again from around 4pm to 8pm Monday to Friday. Many shops keep the same hours on Saturday, although some don't bother with the evening session.

Large supermarkets, malls and department stores such as El Corte Inglés stay open all day from Monday to Saturday, between about 10am and 10pm. Many fashion boutiques, design stores and the like open from about 10am to 8pm Monday to Saturday.

A handful of shops open on Sundays and holidays, and the number increases in the run up to key consumer holiday periods (such as during the weeks leading up to Christmas and Reis).

top picks

SHOPPING STRIPS

- Avinguda del Portal de l'Àngel** (Map pp64–5) With El Corte Inglés leading the way, this broad pedestrian avenue is lined with everything from shoe shops to patisseries, and feeds into Carrer dels Boters and Carrer de la Portaferrissa, characterised by stores offering light-hearted costume jewellery and young streetwear.
- Avinguda Diagonal** (Map pp122–3) The boulevard is loaded up with international fashion names, department stores and design boutiques, suitably interspersed with eateries to allow weary shoppers to take a load off.
- Carrer d'Avinyó** (Map pp64–5) Once a fairly squalid old-town road (where Picasso and his friends used to frequent houses of ill repute), Carrer d'Avinyó has morphed into a dynamic young fashion street.
- Carrer del Rec** (Map pp84–5) Another threads street, this one-time stream is lined with bright, sometimes quirky boutiques. Check out Carrer de Bonaire and Carrer de l'Esparteria too. You'll find discount outlets and original local designers.
- Passeig de Gràcia** (Map pp108–9) This is the premier shopping boulevard, chic with a capital 'C', but mostly given over to big name international brands.
- Carrer de la Riera Baixa** (Map pp76–7) The place to look for a gaggle of stores flogging preloved threads.
- Carrer de Petritxol** (Map pp64–5) For chocolate shops and art.
- Carrer del Consell de Cent** (Map pp108–9) The heart of the private art gallery scene in Barcelona, between Passeig de Gràcia and Carrer de Muntaner.
- Carrer dels Banys Nous** (Map pp64–5) Along with nearby Carrer de la Palla, the place to look for antiques.

BARRI GÒTIC & LA RAMBLA

A handful of interesting shops dot La Rambla, but the real fun starts inside the labyrinth. Young fashion on Carrer d'Avinyó, a mixed bag on Avinguda del Portal del Àngel, some cute old shops on Carrer de la Dagueria and lots of exploring in tight old lanes awaits.

ANTINOUS Map pp64-5 Books

☎ 93 301 90 70; www.antinouslibros.com, in Spanish; Carrer de Josep Anselm Clavé 6; M Drassanes Gay and lesbian travellers may want to browse in this spacious and relaxed gay bookshop, which also has a modest café out the back. This is the place for porn mags, postcards of muscle-bound fellows and an awful lot of highbrow lit on homosexual issues mixed in with rather lower-brow lit to groan to.

CAELUM Map pp64-5 Food

☎ 93 302 69 93; Carrer de la Palla 8; ☎ 10.30am-8pm Tue-Thu & Sun, 11.30am-11pm Fri & Sat, 5-8pm Mon; M Liceu Centuries of heavenly gastronomic tradition gathers from across Spain in this exquisite medieval space in the heart of the city. Sweets (such as the irresistible marzipan from Toledo) made by nuns in convents across the country make their way to this den of delicacies.

CASA BEETHOVEN Map pp64-5 Music

☎ 93 301 48 26; La Rambla de Sant Josep 97; M Liceu This isn't any old sheet-music shop. In business since 1880 and with an air more of a museum than of a store, Casa Beethoven's customers have included Montserrat Caballé, Josep Carreras and Plácido Domingo. They keep up with the times, and you're as likely to find music by Metallica as by Mozart. On Saturdays small concerts are sometimes held.

CERERIA SUBIRÀ Map pp64-5 Candles

☎ 93 315 26 06; Baixada de la Llibreteria 7; M Jaume I Even if you're not interested in myriad mounds of colourful wax, pop in just so you've been to the oldest shop in Barce-

IT'S SALE TIME

The winter sales start shortly after Reis (6 January) and, depending on the store, can go on well into February. The summer sales start in July, with stores trying to entice locals to part with one last wad of euros before they flood out of the city on holiday in August. Some shops prolong their sales to the end of August.

lona. Open since 1761, and at this address since the 19th century, it has a voluptuous, baroque feel about it.

EL INGENIO Map pp64-5 Masks & Costumes

☎ 93 317 71 38; Carrer d'En Rauric 6; M Liceu In this whimsical fantasy store you will discover giant Carnaval masks, costumes, theatrical accessories and other fun things. You can pick up some 'devil's batons' to do a little fiery juggling, a monocycle or clown make-up.

GOTHAM Map pp64-5 Design

☎ 93 412 46 47; Carrer de Cervantes 7; M Jaume I Look back with fondness at the furniture and lights here, which date back to at least the 1960s, and in some cases the '30s. Much of it is restored and given a bright, decorative once-over. Retro design freaks will fall in love with this place.

HERBORISTERIA DEL REI Map pp64-5 Herbs & Medicinal Plants

☎ 93 318 05 12; www.herboristeriadelrei.com; Carrer del Vidre 1; M Liceu Once patronised by Queen Isabel II, this timeless corner store flogs all sorts of weird and wonderful herbs, spices and medicinal plants. It's been doing so since 1823 and the décor has barely changed since the 1860s. Some of the products have, and you'll find anything from teas to massage oil nowadays. Film director Tom Tykwer shot scenes of *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* here.

L'ARCA DE L'ÀVIA Map pp64-5 Vintage Clothes & Accessories

☎ 93 302 15 98; Carrer dels Banys Nous 20; M Liceu Grandma's chest is indeed full of extraordinary remembrances from the past, when young ladies used to put together a trousseau of clothes and other items for their wedding. You might find anything from

old silk kimonos to wedding dresses from the 1920s. Some items sold here wound up being used in the film *Titanic*.

LA CONDONERIA Map pp64-5 Condoms

☎ 93 302 77 21; Plaça de Sant Josep Oriol 7; M Liceu Run out of kinky coloured condoms? Need a fresh batch of lubricant? Pick up these vital items and a host of bedside novelties and naughty bits here.

LA MANUAL ALPARGATERA Map pp64-5 Shoes

☎ 93 301 01 72; Carrer d'Avinyó 7; M Drassanes The bright white shopfront is a local landmark. Everyone from the Pope to Michael Douglas has ordered a pair of espadrilles (rope-soled, canvas shoes or sandals) from this store that holds its own against Nike and co. It also does a line in sun hats and bags.

LE BOUDOIR Map pp64-5 Lingerie & Erotica

☎ 93 302 52 81; www.leboudoir.net; Carrer de la Canuda 21; M Catalunya Need to spice up the bedroom situation? Take a stroll around this sensual shop, where anything from lacy, racy underwear to exuberant sex toys is available. Transparent handcuffs might be fun, or perhaps a bit of slap and tickle with a whip and mask?

LLIBRERIA & INFORMACIÓ Map pp64-5 Books

☎ 93 302 64 62; La Rambla dels Estudis 118; M Liceu This is a good first stop for books and pamphlets on all things Catalan, ranging from huge coffee-table tomes on all facets of Catalan art and architecture through to turgid tracts on Catalan law. You can skip the latter, but the former are exquisite. The shop stocks very little in English (and even less in Spanish).

LOFT Map pp64-5 Fashion

☎ 93 301 24 20; Carrer d'Avinyó 22; M Jaume I Of the numerous hip fashion stores that have converted this once-slummy alley into a threads mecca for young men and women about town, Loft is one of the longest-established and biggest. It carries

labels such as Diesel Style Lab and other cutting-edge names.

OBACH Map pp64-5 Millinery

☎ 93 318 40 94; Carrer del Call 2; M Liceu Since 1924 this store in the heart of the Call (Jewish quarter) has been purveying all manner of headgear for men. Time seems to have stood still here, and one assumes the bulk of the clientele belongs to a senior generation. Hats off to a remarkably long-lived institution.

PAPABUBBLE Map pp64-5 Candied Sweets

☎ 93 268 86 25; www.papabubble.com; Carrer Ample 28; M Liceu It feels like a step into another era in this candy store, where they make up pots of rainbow-coloured boiled lollies, just like some of us remember from corner-store days as kids. Watch the sticky sweets being made before your eyes. For all its apparent timelessness, this is a relatively new venture. Started by Australians in Barcelona, this sweet reminiscence has spread, with shops in Amsterdam, New York and Tokyo.

QUERA Map pp64-5 Books

☎ 93 318 07 43; Carrer de Petritxol 2; M Liceu Crammed into a tiny bookshop is a treasure-trove of travel material, mostly on Catalonia and the Pyrenees. It specialises in maps and guides, including a host of stuff for walking, and has been in business since 1916.

RAG SHOP Map pp64-5 Fashion

☎ 93 319 78 61; Carrer de la Llibreteria 14; M Jaume I Light dresses, tops and other items, mostly a mix of cotton and modern fibres like elastane, appeal to those seeking a casual, unfussy look. Skunkfunk, a ballsy Basque Country brand that is taking the urban women's prêt-à-porter world by storm, leads the way here.

SALA PARÉS Map pp64-5 Art

☎ 93 318 70 20; www.salapares.com; Carrer del Petritxol 5; M Liceu Picasso had works on sale here a century ago in what is one of the city's most venerable and still-dynamic private galleries. In business since 1877, the gallery has

maintained its position as one of the city's leading purveyors of Catalan art, old and contemporary.

TANUS 13 Map pp64–5 Clothes & Accessories

☎ 93 315 01 55; **Carrer de Jaume I 13**; **M** Jaume I Handmade printed dresses and boldly coloured, handmade leather bags, purses and pouches fill this corner store. Those with an eye for the original, whether stylish uptown ladies or inner-city grunge lovers, will surely find something to catch the eye.

VILLEGAS CERÀMICA Map pp64–5 Ceramics

☎ 93 317 53 30; **www.villegasceramica.net**; **Carrer Comtal 31**; **M** Urquinaona

For some curious ceramics that have nothing to do with traditional wares, poke your head in here. Arresting items include cat's-head clocks, in which the eyes move back and forth, or pottery statues of stretched human figures.

XOCOA Map pp64–5 Food

☎ 93 301 11 97; **www.xocoa-bcn.com**; **Carrer del Pelitxol 11**; **M** Liceu

Shield your eyes from the ultra-bright rose-and-white décor and prepare yourself for a different kind of chocolate. Carefully arranged inside this den of dental devility are ranks and ranks of original chocolate bars, chocolates stuffed with sweet stuff, gooey pastries and more.

THE URGE TO RUMMAGE

Lovers of old books, coins, stamps and general bric-a-brac can indulge their habits uninhibited at several markets. They generally get going from 9am and wind down around 8pm. The coin and stamp collectors' market and the old-books peddlers around the **Mercat de Sant Antoni** usually pack up by 2pm.

The **Barri Gòtic** is enlivened by an **art and crafts market** (Plaça de Sant Josep Oriol; **M** Liceu) on Saturday and Sunday, the antiques **Mercat Gòtic** (Plaça Nova; **M** Liceu or Jaume I) on Thursday, and a **coin and stamp collectors' market** (Plaça Reial; **M** Liceu) on Sunday morning.

Just beyond the western edge of El Raval, the punters at the **Modernista Mercat de Sant Antoni** (Map pp102–3; **M** Sant Antoni) dedicate Sunday morning to old maps, stamps, books and cards.

Once a fortnight, gourmands can poke about the homemade honeys, sweets, cheeses and other edible delights at the **Fira Alimentació** (Plaça del Pi; **M** Liceu) from Friday to Sunday. Ask at the **Oficina d'Informació de Turisme de Barcelona** (p279) for the dates.

Some annual markets are also worth looking out for. In May, stands set up in the **Portal de l'Àngel** (Avinguda del Portal de l'Àngel; **M** Catalunya) for the **Fira del Llibre Antic** (Antique Book Fair). The same spot hosts the **Fira de Terrissa** (Pottery Fair; five days starting around 20 September) and the similar **Fira Ceramistes** (Ceramicists Fair; around 23 December to 5 January).

The **Fira de Santa Llúcia** (**M** Liceu), on and around Avinguda de la Catedral, is held in December. You can buy figurines, including many models of that infamous Catalan Christmas character, the *caganer* (crapper; see p19), to make your own Nativity scene.

EL RAVAL

The area boasts a handful of art galleries around the Macba, along with a burgeoning secondhand and vintage clothes scene on Carrer de la Riera Baixa. Carrer dels Tallers is one of the city's main music strips.

CASTELLÓ Map pp76–7 Music

☎ 93 318 20 41; **www.discoscstelllo.es**; **Carrer dels Tallers 3, 7 & 79**; **M** Catalunya

These three stores are part of a large family business that has been going since 1935 and which is said to account for a fifth of the retail record business in Catalonia.

EL INDIÓ Map pp76–7 Fabrics

☎ 93 317 54 42; **Carrer del Carme 24**; **M** Liceu Take a giant leap back into the late 19th century. You probably won't be in the market for bolts of cloth while in Barcelona, but admire the Modernista shopfront before simply wandering in for a look around this time-warp store.

GI JOE Map pp76–7 Fashion

☎ 93 329 96 52; **Carrer de l'Hospital 82**; **M** Liceu On the corner of Carrer de la Riera Baixa, which is lined with secondhand clothes shops, is this army-surplus warehouse. Get your khakis here, along with urban army fashion T-shirts. Throw in a holster, gas mask or sky-blue UN helmet for a kinkier effect.

LA PORTORRIQUEÑA Map pp76–7 Coffee

☎ 93 317 34 38; **Carrer d'En Xuclà 25**; **M** Catalunya

Coffee beans from around the world, freshly ground before your eyes, has been the winning formula in this store since 1902. It also offers all sorts of chocolate goodies. The street is good for little old-fashioned food boutiques.

LEFTIES Map pp76–7 Fashion

☎ 93 317 50 70; **Carrer de Pelai 2**; ☎ 10am–9pm Mon–Sat **M** Universitat

Don't mind being seen in last year's Zara fashions? Lefties (ie leftovers) could be the browsing spot for you, with men's, women's and kids' cast-offs from the previous year at silly prices. You could fill a wardrobe with perfectly good middle-of-the-road threads and your bank manager would be none the wiser.

TERANYINA Map pp76–7 Textiles

☎ 93 317 94 36; **Carrer del Notari 10**; **M** Catalunya

Artist Teresa Rosa Aguayo runs this textile workshop in the heart of the artsy bit of El Raval. You can join courses at the loom, admire some of the rugs and other works that Teresa has created and, of course, buy them.

LA RIBERA

The former commercial heart of medieval Barcelona is today still home to a cornucopia of old-style specialist food and drink shops, a veritable feast of aroma and atmosphere. The late 1990s injected a flood of hip little fashion stores.

ANTICH Map pp84–5 Accessories

☎ 93 310 43 91; **http://lacasaantich.com**; **Carrer del Consolat de Mar 27–31**; **M** Barceloneta

Traditionally this street was lined with purveyors of bags and related travel goods. The Antich clan, in business since 1910, offers a range of travel cases and bags of various known brands. More interesting is their own line of handmade articles, from suitcases to leather tool bags.

CAFÉ DE LA PRINCESA Map pp84–5 Boutique

☎ 93 268 15 18; **www.cafeprincesa.com**; **Carrer dels Flassaders 21**; **M** Jaume I

In a dark lane named after the blanket-makers that once worked here is this odd combination of cooperative store, art gallery and restaurant (entry to the latter is from Carrer de Sabateret). Its members make many of the oddities on sale, but others are objects imported from such disparate locations as Prague and Colombia. Leather bags, toys and clothes make up just part of the offerings.

CASA GISPERT Map pp84–5 Food

☎ 93 319 75 35; **www.casagispert.com**; **Carrer dels Sombrerers 23**; **M** Jaume I

Nuts to you at the wood-fronted Casa Gispert, where they've been toasting nuts and selling all manner of dried fruit since 1851. Pots and jars piled high on the shelves contain an unending variety of crunchy titbits, some roasted, some honeyed, all of them moreish.

CUSTO BARCELONA Map pp84–5 Fashion

☎ 93 268 78 93; **www.custo-barcelona.com**; **Plaça de les Olles 7**; **M** Jaume I

The psychedelic décor and casual atmosphere lend this avant-garde Barcelona fashion store a youthful edge. Custo presents daring new women's and men's collections each year on the New York catwalks. The dazzling colours and cut of anything from dinner jackets to hotpants are for the uninhibited. They have four other outlets around town.

EL MAGNÍFICO Map pp84–5 Food

☎ 93 319 60 81; **www.cafeselmagnifico.com**; **Carrer de l'Argenteria 64**; **M** Jaume I

All sorts of coffee has been roasted here since the early 20th century. The variety of coffee (and tea) available is remarkable – and the aromas hit you as you walk in. Across the road, the same people run the exquisite and much newer tea shop, **Sans i Sans** (☎ 93 319 60 81; Carrer de l'Argenteria 59).

EL REY DE LA MAGIA Map pp84–5 Magic

☎ 93 319 39 20; **www.elreydelamagia.com**, in Catalan & Spanish; **Carrer de la Princesa 11**; ☎ 11am–2pm & 5–8pm Mon–Fri, 10am–2pm Sat; **M** Jaume I

For more than 100 years, the people behind this box of tricks have been keeping locals both astounded and amused.

Should you decide to stay in Barcelona and make a living as a magician, this is the place to buy levitation brooms, glasses of disappearing milk and decks of magic cards.

GALERIA MAEGHT Map pp84-5 Art

☎ 93 310 42 45; Carrer de Montcada 25; ☎ 10am-2pm & 3-7pm Tue-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat; **M** Jaume I This high-end gallery, housed in one of the fine medieval mansions for which this street is known, specialises in 20th-century masters. It is as enticing for the building as the art.

LA BOTIFARRERIA Map pp84-5 Food

☎ 93 319 91 23; Carrer de Santa Maria 4; **M** Jaume I

As they say, 'sausages with imagination!' Although this delightful deli sells all sorts of cheeses, hams, fresh hamburger patties, snacks and other goodies, the mainstay is an astounding variety of handcrafted sausages. Not just the pork variety, but stuffed with anything from orange and onion to apple curry!

OLISOLIVA Map pp84-5 Food

☎ 93 268 14 72; www.olisoliva.com, in Spanish; Avinguda de Francesc Cambó; **M** Jaume I Inside the **Mercat de Santa Caterina** (p82), this simple, glassed-in store is stacked with olive oils and vinegars from all over Spain. Taste some of the products before deciding. Some of the best olive oils come from southern Spain. The range of vinegars is astounding too.

OLIVE Map pp84-5 Food

☎ 93 310 58 83; Plaça de les Olles 2; **M** Barceloneta

Wander into this stone-faced, mock-Gothic building and immerse yourself in an array of olive oils, fragrances, essences, vinegars and even juices. It's a delightful spot for self-indulgence.

OUTLET Map pp84-5 Clothes

☎ 93 268 72 49; Carrer de l'Esparteria 12; **M** Barceloneta

Discounted fashions from the previous year from designers like Hugo Boss, G-Star, Armani Jeans or Viktor & Rolf find their way into this chaotic store, where you can look forward to anything up to half price.

TOT FORMATGE Map pp84-5 Food

☎ 93 319 53 75; Passeig del Born 13; ☎ 5-8pm Mon, 9am-2pm & 5-8pm Tue-Fri, 10.30am-1.30pm Sat; **M** Jaume I

On entering, the aromas of an international assembly of fine cheeses waft towards you. Little platters are scattered about with samples of a handful of the store's products, which together form a bright display of the best of local and European cheeses.

VILA VINITECA Map pp84-5 Drink

☎ 93 268 32 27; www.vilaviniteca.es, in Spanish; Carrer dels Agullers 7; ☎ 8.30am-8.30pm Mon-Sat; **M** Jaume I

One of the best wine stores in Barcelona (and Lord knows, there are a few), this place has been searching out the best in local and imported wines since 1932. On a couple of November evenings they organise what has by now become an almost riotous wine-tasting event in Carrer dels Agullers and surrounding lanes, at which cellars from around Spain present their young new wines. At No 9 they have another store devoted to gourmet food products.

PORT VELL & LA BARCELONETA

Aside from the shopping-mall fun of Maremàgnum, there are precious few outlets for maxing out your cards along the waterfront.

top picks

BEST KEPT SECRETS

- **Café de la Princesa** (p157) A Pandora's box of disparate goodies down a hidden medieval lane.
- **Herboristeria del Rei** (p154) Ancient herbs and traditional remedies.
- **La Portorriqueña** (p157) Timeless coffee merchant in El Raval.
- **Sala Parés** (p155) A historic private art gallery.
- **Caelum** (p154) Traditional sweets from Spanish convents.
- **El Ingenio** (p154) Masks and costumes.
- **Norma Comics** (p162) An amazing collection of comics and super-hero models.
- **Papabubble** (p155) Boiled sweetsies, just like in Grandpa's day.

MAREMÀGNUM Map p93 Shopping Centre

☎ 93 225 81 00; www.maremagnum.es; Moll d'Espanya; ☎ 10am-10pm; **M** Drassanes Created out of largely abandoned docks, this chirpy shopping centre, with its bars, restaurants and cinemas, is pleasant enough for a stroll virtually in the middle of the old harbour. You'll find outlets for anything from Calvin Klein underwear to Brazilian flip-flops (Havaianas). Football fans will be drawn to the paraphernalia at **FC Barcelona** (☎ 93 225 80 45). The big news is that shops here open on Sundays, pretty much unheard of anywhere else in the city.

L'EIXAMPLE

Most of the city's classy shopping spreads across the heart of l'Eixample, in particular along Passeig de Gràcia, La Rambla de Catalunya and adjacent streets. All about are dotted a surprising array of speciality stores, anything from gloves to glues.

ADOLFO DOMÍNGUEZ Map pp108-9 Fashion

☎ 93 487 41 70; www.adolfo-dominguez.com; Passeig de Gràcia 32; **M** Passeig de Gràcia

One of the stars of Spanish *prêt-à-porter*, this label produces classic men's and women's garments from quality materials. Anything from regal party gowns to kids' outfits (that might have you thinking of British aristocracy), the broad range generally oozes a conservative air, with elegant cuts that make no concessions to rebellious urban ideals.

ALTAÏR Map pp108-9 Books

☎ 93 342 71 71; www.altair.es; Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 616; ☎ 10am-8.30pm Mon-Sat; **M** Universitat

Enter the world of travel in this extensive bookshop, mecca for guidebooks, maps, travel literature and all sorts of other books likely to induce a severe case of itchy feet. It has a travellers' notice board and, downstairs, a travel agent.

ANTONIO MIRÓ Map pp108-9 Fashion

☎ 93 487 06 70; www.antoniomiro.es, in Spanish; Carrer del Consell de Cent 349; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat; **M** Passeig de Gràcia

Antonio Miró is one of Barcelona's *haute couture* kings. The entrance to the airy store, with dark hardwood floor, seems more like a hip hotel reception. Miró concentrates

THE ALMOST 24-HOUR STORE

The El Corte Inglés department store runs a chain of general stores, Opencor, where you can pick up papers, books, snacks, drinks and other life necessities 18 hours a day (8am to 2am), except for 1 January, 1 May, 11 September and 25 December. It had 17 branches around the city at last count. You'll find one at **Ronda de Sant Pere 33** (Map pp108-9) and another at **Carrer Gran de Gràcia 29** (Map p118).

on light, natural fibres to produce smart, unpretentious men's and women's fashion. High-end evening dresses and shimmering, smart suits lead the way. Or you could just settle for an Antonio Miró T-shirt.

ARMAND BASI Map pp108-9 Fashion

☎ 93 215 14 21; www.armandbasi.com; Passeig de Gràcia 49; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat; **M** Passeig de Gràcia

Local design star Basi appeals to a 30s and 40s crowd with a slick line in casual elegance. Suits that are perfect without ties and made to impress at dinner or in the town's top clubs match with stylish evening dresses. More casual shirts, trousers, tops and frocks broaden the range. Leather jackets and footwear complete the picture.

BAGUÉS Map pp108-9 Jewellery

☎ 93 216 01 73; www.bagues.com; Passeig de Gràcia 41; **M** Passeig de Gràcia This jewellery store, in business since the 19th century, is in thematic harmony with its location in the Modernista Casa Amatller. Some of the classic pieces of jewellery to come out of the Bagués clan's workshops have an equally playful, Modernista bent.

BSB ALFOMBRAS Map pp102-3 Rugs & Carpets

☎ 93 410 74 41; Carrer de París 174; **M** Hospital Clinic

Designer carpets and rugs are strung up like the modern works of art they are. Hand-knotted rugs maintain tradition in production as does the use of fine Tibetan wool and Chinese silk, but designs are contemporary and challenging.

CAMPER Map pp108-9 Shoes

☎ 93 215 63 90; www.camper.com; Carrer de València 249; **M** Passeig de Gràcia

What started as a modest Mallorcan family business (the island has a long shoemaking tradition) has over the decades become the Clarks of Spain. Camper shoes, from the eminently sensible to the stylishly fashionable, are known for solid reliability and are sold all over the world.

CASA DEL LLIBRE Map pp108–9 Books

☎ 902 026407; www.casadellibro.com, in Spanish; Passeig de Gràcia 62; ☎ 9.30am–9.30pm Mon–Sat;  Passeig de Gràcia

With branches elsewhere in Spain, the 'Home of the Book' is a well-stocked general bookshop with reasonable sections devoted to literature in English, French and other languages. The website is a good place to look for Spanish literature if the shop is a walk too far.

CUBIÑA Map pp108–9 Design

☎ 93 476 57 21; www.cubinya.es; Carrer de Mallorca 291;  Verdaguer


Even if interior design doesn't ring your bell, a visit to this extensive temple to furniture, lamps and just about any home accessories your heart might desire, is worth it just to see this Domènech i Montaner building. Admire the enormous and whimsical wrought iron decoration at street level before heading inside to marvel at the ceiling, timber work, brick columns and windows. Oh, and don't forget the furniture.

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE

If Spain has been importing cocoa from its South American colonies since the 16th century, the pastry-makers of Barcelona have been doing it greatest justice. The city's love affair with chocolate is exemplified in the existence of a museum dedicated to the stuff (p89). Traditional purveyors of fine chocolates such as **Escribà** (p186) have long operated alongside *granjas* and other similar outlets for sipping cups of the thick hot stuff (several of which you'll find in the Eating chapter; p166). Since the 1980s, and especially in recent years, they have been joined by a slew of chocolatiers whose creativity seems to know no bounds. Along with **Bubó** (p177), **Cacao Sampaka** (p186) and **Xocxo** (p156), chocoholics should search out the following:

Bocamel (Map pp84–5; ☎ 93 268 72 44; www.bocamel.com; Carrer del Comerç 8;  Arc de Triomf)

Chocolat Factory (Map pp108–9; ☎ 93 215 02 73; www.chocolatfactory.com; Carrer de Provença 233;  Diagonal)

Enric Rovira (Map pp122–3; ☎ 93 419 25 47; www.enricrovira.com; Avinguda de Josep Tarradellas 113;  Entença)

Oriol Balaguer (Map pp122–3; ☎ 93 201 18 46; www.oriolbalaguer.com; Plaça de Sant Gregori Taumaturg 2;  FGC La Bonanova)

Pastisseria Natcha (Map pp122–3; ☎ 93 430 10 70; www.natcha.cat; Avinguda de Sarrià 45;  Hospital Clínic)

Richart (Map pp122–3; ☎ 93 202 02 40; www.richart.com; Carrer de Muntaner 463;  FGC La Bonanova)

EL BULEVARD DELS ANTIQUARIS

Map pp108–9 Antiques

☎ 93 215 44 99; www.bulevarddelsantiquaris.com; Passeig de Gràcia 55–57; ☎ 10am–8pm Mon–Sat;  Passeig de Gràcia

More than 70 stores are gathered under one roof (on the floor above the more general Bulevard Rosa arcade) to offer the most varied selection of collector's pieces, ranging from old porcelain dolls through to fine crystal, from Asian antique furniture to old French goods, from African and other ethnic art to jewellery.

EL CORTE INGLÉS

Map pp108–9 Department Store

☎ 93 306 38 00; www.elcorteingles.es, in Spanish; Plaça de Catalunya 14; ☎ 10am–10pm Mon–Sat;  Catalunya


The 'English Court' is Spain's flagship department store, with everything you'd expect, from computers to cushions, high fashion to homewares. The top floor is occupied by a so-so restaurant with fabulous city views. El Corte Inglés has other branches, including at **Avinguda Diagonal 617** (Map pp122–3) and **Avinguda Diagonal 471–473** (Map pp102–3) near Plaça de Francesc Macià.

ELS ENCANTS VELLS

Map pp102–3 Flea Market

☎ 93 246 30 30; www.encantsbcn.com, in Catalan; Plaça de les Glòries Catalanes; ☎ 7am–6.45pm Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat;  Glòries

HUNTING FOR OLD STUFF

Antique lovers could set aside a Sunday morning for a trip to **Mercantic** (☎ 93 674 49 50; www.mercantic.com; Carrer de Rius i Taulet 120, Sant Cugat del Vallès; ☎ 9.30am–3pm;  FGC lines S1, S2, S5 or S55), a collection of gaily painted timber huts occupied by antique and bric-a-brac dealers selling everything from restored furniture to dusty old telephones. The first Sunday of the month is delivery day, when the stall-holders take delivery of a new wave of old stuff. The permanent market, with some 80 stall-holders, is open during the week too (9.30am to 8pm Tuesday to Saturday). There's an activities and play area for children. A date to watch is the Antiquaris Barcelona antiques fair (www.antiquarisbcn.com), usually held around the first week of April.

Also known as the Fira de Bellcaire, the 'Old Charms' flea market is the biggest of its kind in Barcelona. The markets moved here in 1928 from Avinguda Mistral, near Plaça d'Espanya. It's all here, from antique furniture through to secondhand clothes. A lot of it is junk, but occasionally you'll stumble across a *ganga* (bargain).

FARRUTX Map pp108–9 Shoes

☎ 93 215 06 85; www.farrutx.es; Carrer de Rosselló 218;  Diagonal

Another Mallorcan shoemaker, Farrutx specialises in exclusive upmarket footwear for uptown gals. You might fall for high-heeled summer sandals or elegant winter boots. There are matching bags too, and even a line in T-shirts.

FLORISTERIA NAVARRO

Map pp108–9 Florist

☎ 93 457 40 99; www.floresnavarro.com; Carrer de València 320; ☎ 24hr;  Diagonal

You never know when you might need flowers. What better way to follow up the first night of a new romance than with a bunch of roses? No problem, because this florist never closes!

GRATACÒS Map pp108–9 Fashion

☎ 93 238 73 53; www.gratacos.com in Spanish; Passeig de Gràcia 108;  Diagonal

In town for a wedding and left your dress behind? Perhaps you should pop by this luxury women's clothing store, a classic in Barcelona since 1940. Specialists in top-class materials, it produces lavish dresses for the most exclusive of cocktail gatherings.

JOAN MURRIÀ Map pp108–9 Food

☎ 93 215 57 89; Carrer de Roger de Llúria 85;  Passeig de Gràcia

Ramon Casas designed the century-old

Modernista shopfront advertisements featured at this culinary coven. For a century the gluttonous have trembled here at this altar of speciality food goods from around Catalonia and beyond.

JORDI LABANDA STORE

Map pp108–9 Clothes

☎ 93 496 14 03; Carrer de Rosselló 232;  Diagonal

Uruguay-born and Barcelona-raised cartoonist Jordi Labanda made a name for himself with his colourful pointed portraits of contemporary 30-somethings in top-flight magazines and newspapers, and murals in the Sandwich & Friends fastish food chain. Now he also does original women's clothes, in which he has toned down the colours but remains playful in design. In all his work there is an element of biting social commentary, so these are thinking-women's clothes!

LAIE Map pp108–9 Books

☎ 93 318 17 39; www.laie.es, in Catalan & Spanish; Carrer de Pau Claris 85; ☎ 10am–9pm Mon–Fri, 10.30am–9pm Sat;  Catalunya or Urquinaona

Laie has novels and books on architecture, art and film in English, French, Spanish and Catalan. Better still, it has a great café where you can examine your latest purchases or browse through the newspapers provided for customers in true Mitteleuropean style.

LOEWE Map pp108–9 Fashion

☎ 93 216 04 00; www.loewe.es; Passeig de Gràcia 35; ☎ 10am–8.30pm Mon–Sat;  Passeig de Gràcia

Loewe is one of Spain's leading and oldest fashion stores, founded in 1846. It specialises in luxury leather (shoes, accessories and travel bags), and also has lines in perfume, sunglasses, cufflinks, silk scarves and jewellery. This branch opened in 1943 in the Modernista Casa Lleó Morera.

LUNIC Map pp108–9 Fashion & Accessories

☎ 93 457 52 75; Carrer de València 341;
 📍 Verdaguer

The eye is unfailingly attracted to this corner shop, with its lipstick-red walls and sanded white furniture. All about hangs an eclectic collection of handbags, from glaring red leather to more modest hues, with broad appeal. Daring ladies' hats offer further inspiration. Those in search of light summer dresses, in a seemingly limitless variety of colours but mostly straightforward in style, have come to the right place.

MANGO Map pp108–9 Fashion & Accessories

☎ 93 215 75 30; www.mango.com; Passeig de Gràcia 65; ☎ 10am–9pm Mon–Sat;
 📍 Passeig de Gràcia

At home in the basement of a modest Modernista town house (check out the white, cast-iron columns inside) and a dozen other locations around town, Mango offers a locally produced, affordable and mostly casual fashion for women and, since 2008, men (with the new HE collection). Smart but easy evening wear, skirts, jackets, high heels and leather bags for her contrast with collarless shirts, jeans, khaki and T-shirts for him.

MARC 3 Map pp108–9 Posters & Paintings

☎ 93 318 19 53; Rambla de Catalunya 12;
 ☎ 10am–8pm Mon–Sat; 📍 Catalunya

A yawning cavern of posters, prints and original paintings awaits those who need to dress their walls. You can go for the tried and true Robert Doisneau kissing scenes or some wonderfully obscure reproduction adverts.

MAS BACUS Map pp108–9 Drink

☎ 93 453 43 58; Carrer d'Enric Granados 68;
 📍 FGC Provença

Not only a fine-wine store, this place has the added attraction of housing a gourmet snack stop. Call in to see what they proffer for tasting out back before contemplating a wine purchase. Or just taste some wines by the glass (around €2.50). Tastings are possible from 11am to 10.30pm Tuesday to Saturday.

NORMA COMICS Map pp102–3 Comics

☎ 93 244 84 23; www.normacomics.com, in Spanish; Passeig de Sant Joan 7–9; 📍 Arc de Triomf

DANONE'S BARCELONA ROOTS

The yoghurt at the heart of the French foodstuffs multinational, Danone, was first made and sold in Barcelona in 1919, when Isaac Carasso started a company he called Danone (after Danon, the diminutive of his son Daniel's name). Daniel opened a Paris branch 10 years later, which in 1967 would join French cheese company to create Gervais-Danone. Six years later, a glass and packaging group, BSN, swallowed up Gervais-Danone and eventually shed its glass business to put food products at the centre of its business. By now a thoroughly French multinational, few remember that its popular tub of yoghurt first saw the light of day in post-WWI Barcelona.

With a huge range of comics, Spanish and international, this is Spain's biggest dealer – everything from Tintin to some of the weirdest sci-fi and sex comics can be found here. Also on show are armies of model super heroes and other characters produced by fevered imaginations. Kids from nine to 99 can be seen snapping up items to add to their collections.

PURIFICACIÓN GARCÍA

Map pp108–9 Fashion

☎ 93 487 72 92; www.purificaciongarcia.es, in Spanish; Passeig de Gràcia 21; ☎ 10am–8.30pm Mon–Sat; 📍 Passeig de Gràcia

Ms García has an enormous spread of offerings over two floors in this generous corner store. Not only is the building extraordinary but so too are her collections, if only because of their breadth. You'll find women's cardigans and men's ties, as well as light summer dresses and jeans. Evening wear, daywear, and accessories for both men and women of most ages and tastes (including a huge range of leather handbags of all sizes and colours) abound.

REGIA Map pp108–9 Perfume

☎ 93 216 01 21; www.regia.es in Catalan & Spanish; Passeig de Gràcia 39; ☎ 9.30am–8.30pm Mon–Fri, 10.30am–8.30pm Sat; 📍 Passeig de Gràcia
 Reputed to be one of the best perfume stores in the city and in business since 1928, Regia stocks all the name brands and also has a private [perfume museum](#) (p112) out the back. Aside from the range of perfumes, Regia sells all sorts of creams, lotions and colognes. It also has its own line of bath products.

VINÇON Map pp108–9 Design

☎ 93 215 60 50; www.vincon.com; Passeig de Gràcia 96; ☎ 10am–8.30pm Mon–Sat; 📍 Diagonal
 An icon of the Barcelona design scene, Vinçon has the slickest furniture and household goods (particularly lighting), local and imported. Not surprising really, since the building, raised in 1899, belonged to the Modernista artist Ramon Casas. Head upstairs to the furniture area – from the windows and terrace you get close side views of La Pedrera.

XAMPANY Map pp108–9 Drink

☎ 610 845011; Carrer de València 200; ☎ 4.30–10pm Mon–Fri, 10am–2pm Sat; 📍 Passeig de Gràcia
 Since 1981, this 'Cathedral of Cava' has been distributing bubbly to the local citizenry. It's a veritable Aladdin's cave of cava, with bottles of the stuff crammed high and into every possible chaotic corner of this dimly lit locale.

GRÀCIA & PARK GÜELL

A wander along the narrow lanes of Gràcia turns up all sorts of surprises, mostly tiny enterprises producing anything from printed T-shirts to handmade table lamps. They tend to come and go, so you never quite know what you might turn up.

ÉRASE UNA VEZ Map p118 Fashion

☎ 93 217 29 77; Carrer de Goya 7; 📍 Fontana
 Once Upon a Time is the name of this fanciful boutique that brings out the princess in you (and not a pumpkin in sight). They offer women's clothes, almost exclusively evening wear, to suit most tastes and occasions. Local designers such as Llamazares y de Delgado and Zazo & Brull are behind these sometimes sumptuous creations.

RED MARKET Map p118 Fashion

☎ 93 218 63 33; Carrer de Verdi 20; 📍 Fontana
 Several funky fashion boutiques dot this street, best known to locals for the queues outside the art-house cinema. Here you run into bright, uninhibited urban wear and accessories. Red dominates the décor more than the threads, and various brands of various things, from shoes to tops, are on offer.

LA ZONA ALTA

Although many of Barcelona's better-off folks descend from the 'high zone' to L'Eixample to shop, there are still plenty of trendy little boutiques scattered around La Zona Alta. Passeig de la Bonanova, for example, has quite a liberal spread. It's perhaps a little far off to be of too much interest to tourists but nevertheless can make for an interesting shopping experience.

LA BOTIGA DEL BARÇA

Map pp122–3 Souvenirs

☎ 93 492 31 11; http://shop.fcbarcelona.com; Carrer de Aristides Maillol s/n; ☎ 10am–9pm Mon–Sat; 📍 Collblanc

For some, football is the meaning of life. If you fall into that category, your idea of shopping heaven may well be this store at the football museum next to Camp Nou stadium. Here you will find shirts, key rings, footballs – pretty much anything you can think of, all featuring the famous red and blue colours. It has branches all over town, including at [Maremagnum](#) (p159) and [Carrer de Jaume I 18](#) (Map pp64–5).

LA VINIA Map pp122–3 Drink

☎ 93 363 44 45; www.lavinia.es, in Spanish; Avinguda Diagonal 605; ☎ 10am–9pm Mon–Sat; 📍 Maria Cristina

This huge, modern wine store with designer pretensions takes anything but a traditional approach to its products. In classy supermarket style, La Vinia (a shop that originated in Madrid) presents a seemingly endless selection of wine both from around Spain and the rest of the world.

MONTJUÏC, SANTS & POBLE SEC

Poble Sec and Sants are busy, mostly working-class districts with a smattering of shops, but few that stand out.

ELEPHANT Map pp140–1 Books

☎ 93 443 05 94; www.ifant.biz; Carrer de la Creu dels Molers 12; ☎ 10am–8pm; 📍 Poble Sec
 This bright little English bookshop is a bit off the main tourist track, but is a helpful

AN OUTLET OUTING

For the ultimate discount fashion overdose, head out of town for some outlet shopping at [La Roca Village](#) (off [Map pp102–3](#); ☎ 93 842 39 00; [www.larocavillage.com](#); La Roca del Vallès; 🕒 11am–8.30pm Mon–Fri, 10am–10pm Sat). Here, a village has been given over to consumer madness. At a long line of Spanish and international fashion boutiques you'll find clothes, shoes, accessories and designer homewares at (they claim) up to 60% off normal retail prices. To get here, follow the AP-7 tollway north from Barcelona, take exit 12 (marked Cardedeu) and follow the signs for La Roca. The [Sagalés bus company](#) (☎ 902 130014; [www.sagales.com](#)) organises shuttles from Monday to Friday (at 9am, noon and 4pm; €2.70 each way; 50 minutes) from outside the Fabra i Puig Metro station (the service doesn't run in August). Alternatively, take a *rodalies* train to Granollers and pick up the shuttle (Monday to Friday only) or taxi there.

haven of books in Her Majesty's tongue. They range from fiction to children's, with a smattering of reference works and a

healthy secondhand section. Indeed, the business in pre-loved tomes has largely overtaken the line in new books.

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