

Locale LA- Neighborhoods Feature
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If you're in the mood for a day of shopping in Los Angeles, there is no doubt you've come to the right place. In fact, L.A. is one of the most famed shopping cities in the world, especially because it's home to one of the most famous streets in the universe (thanks to 90210 and Julia Roberts). But if you're not in the mood to rub elbows with the Real Housewives, or you're in the 99% of the real world who can't afford a purse the cost of a down payment on a house, we spent a few days enjoying the coolest lesser-known spots in L.A. County so you can still leave happy.

First stop: Belmont Shore!

Belmont Shore is one of the most community-oriented streets in south bay. It has a longstanding history for being a hotspot both day and nighttime for residents of Long Beach, Seal Beach and those Los Angeles residents who are cued in to its perks. All the action is condensed into one long street and is filled with unique finds.

Romance Etc. drew us in by their colorful front display of fresh flowers. Upon peeking into the store, we immediately saw sparkly chandeliers, candles and chocolates and knew this was much more than a flower shop. We had to investigate! This shop, while specializing in floral designs, is known to be Belmont Shore's best gift shop. Every item is handpicked by owners Deborah and Dawna Fay, but is organized perfectly throughout the store by city/ romance, as we started in Paris and fell in love with the romantic books, cards, jewelry and trinkets. In the back is a mini book-shop, as well as vintage furniture and wall-hangings, but what's upstairs was the most surprising (and also exciting): a full women's clothing boutique!

We spotted floor-to-ceiling windows with summery mannequins posing around dreamcatchers and tulle and knew we had to shop in Laurenly Boutique. Its open space and natural light, along with its front table covered in ripped shorts and crochet bikini tops, went perfectly with the summer breeze and the beach just a few blocks away. True to a traditional women's boutique, Laurenly offers a mix-match of prices, carrying both casual clothing and designer. You could find outfits in here for a beach day, a date night or even the Belmont Shore bars and look fab in each setting. Everything caught our eye- from the delicate jewelry to the metallic high-waisted shorts!

Next Stop: Larchmont!

Larchmont may be one of central L.A.'s best kept secrets for the California woman. While self-proclaimed hipsters have known about the hideaway for years, L.A. girls seem to gravitate towards the beach shops or the super-hyped-up streets like Melrose. But they're missing out on new, unique food and shops on this pretty, tree- covered shady street.

Walking by Heavenly Couture, you might think there is nothing too special about this boutique other than its super-cute clothing. But once you glance at a price tag, and then another, and then another, Heavenly Couture might turn into your new favorite place. All general clothing is \$16 dollars! And he most costly thing you'll find in the store are the premium brands which are still a crazy-cheap \$22. All the boutique girls in there were friendly, and we found the trendiest pieces with no skimping in quality. Now we know why it's named Heavenly.

Without heading into Cafe Americano, you might never know the amazing shopping experience you may have at Ich22. Located through the coffee shop and upstairs , Ich22 combines fashion, vintage, art and music seamlessly, and it's all reflected in the eclectic mix of items. Filled with unique jewelry, flowy tops and killer denim, plus its interest in collaborating with artists and designers to promote art, Ich22 is a staple of the Larchmont community.

You don't think we could get through an L.A. hotspot list without mentioning something vegan, do you? Babycakes is located right in the center of it all, offering it's colorful appearance and tasty vegan cupcakes to anyone on the street craving unique sweets. This all vegan, organic and gluten-free bakery offers cupcakes, specialty cakes, cookies, crumb cakes, muffins and brownies, so it's sure to satisfy your sweet tooth. It's the only one in all of the west coast, and we appreciate it's prime day-shopping location so we can always fit in a cupcake to our day.

Wrapping it up in: Venice!

Sure, you've heard of Venice Beach (and have probably been there). You might've shopped along Abbott Kinney too. But we guarantee if you haven't stopped by these places, hearing about them will have you rushing back to find them.

Although Principessa had no big, crazy mural on the side, or any bright-colored awnings, we were still drawn in after walking by the entrance and seeing large, vintage couches and rugs in the center of

truly unique beach and nightwear. The bikinis caught our eyes, but the full jean shop kept us there. Everything we found was unique to not only the shop but this area, and felt if we bought something here and wore it straight out to the Venice hotspots we would fit in perfectly.

It's hard to miss the music and buzzing coming from Intelligentsia. This isn't your average coffee shop- carts instead of walls and stanchions, light colored wood mixed with industrial metal, and zero dress code for the employees- it pulled us in by just aesthetics. With dedication to the true taste and quality of the coffees and teas, Intelligentsia works with growers and takes various approaches to brew. Filled with people, whether conversing at the upper bar or working quietly on laptops on the front porch, we knew the vibe was alluring, but we had to try the coffee. I received my mocha with an open top as to properly display the amazing art made into it- a flower. It was almost too pretty to drink, but I did, because it was delicious.

Have you noticed the all-white house with a glittered roof? Of course you have, but you might not immediately have known what's inside. We found the most unique lingerie and swimwear pieces we'd seen yet, and they're all designer Wylie Wilson. Each piece is one-of-a-kind, made from fabrics from all over the world and hand-embroidered. The designs made us dream to stun on the European beaches with risqué tops and sexy bottoms, but maybe it's because Wylie wear is no stranger to being international. Being featured in a full spread in Italian Vogue, it won't be long until Wylie Wilson takes over the West Coast.

Stopping by all-three spots may drain your wallet, but next time you're looking for a girls' day trip or some serious shopping, you won't be disappointed with these communities. For each one, we weren't ready to leave, but with all perfectly spread in the L.A. area, we know we will end up back on our next day off.