

Shopping Metrostyle

Where The Excitement Is

By Vicki Wilson

Washington DC is a city of museums and monuments, so it is no surprise that we also have monumental shopping. Malls in the metro area bring fashion, fun and food to you with style and flair that is uniquely Washington. Here's a sampling of some of the malls and shopping experiences in metro land.

The magnificently renovated **Union Station** offers more than 100 distinctly different shopping and dining discoveries. The offerings are as diverse as the city's visitors, workers and residents that frequent the mall – from Ann Taylor to Foot Locker to B. Dalton. Sweeping staircases, intricate iron and woodwork and gleaming marble floors blend with shops and restaurants to create a remarkable shopping experience in a train station. There's even a nine-screen multiplex cinema on the lower level. When you're all shopped out, be sure to take a break in the Main Hall at one of the fine restaurants amid art exhibits and cultural events.

If an elegant excursion is what you're looking for, visit **Mazza Gallerie** in the Friendship Heights neighborhood of Washington. Three levels of glittering stores await you, including Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue Men's Store, Williams-Sonoma Grande Cuisine, Filene's Basement and Ann Taylor. In addition, Mazza Gallerie is just steps away from the numerous shopping and dining options, such as Hecht's and Maggiano's that make up the Chevy Chase Shopping District, an international showcase of great design and urban style.

Further into Maryland you'll find **Montgomery Mall**, home to Nordstrom, Hecht's Sears and more than 200 specialty shops including Abercrombie & Fitch, Benetton and Crate & Barrel. There's plenty to do here for folks of all ages – from Kiddie Kruzzers (car-shaped strollers) and a Kid's Club for the under-12 set to senior programs that include informational

presentations and free films. The Screen Zone, located in the Boulevard Café's food court, previews movies and videos, and the Westfield Works Wonders programs partners with charities. Plus, if you're looking for the perfect gift, be sure to stop by the customer service center for the Red Hot List, a selection of gift ideas for all occasions.

When you have the family in tow, check out **Fair Oaks Mall** in Fairfax, VA. This sleek, contemporary center has plenty of atrium rest spots to set a spell – although there's so much to do, you might not get the chance! Li'l Folks at Fair Oaks presents kid's entertainment twice a month in the Center Court and Sneakers and Speakers is a mall walking program. There are more than a hundred stores and shops including Macy's, Lord & Taylor, Hecht's, Sears and JC Penney. And if you're looking to decorate your new place, stop into Eddie Bauer Home, Laura Ashley or Lechter's.

The vote is in – **Tysons Corner Center** was voted "Best Shopping Mall" by *Washingtonian Magazine* for 12 consecutive years. One visit and you'll know why – stores, stores, and more stores, more than 250 in fact. In addition to glamorous department stores, like Bloomingdale's, Nordstrom, Hecht's, Lord & Taylor and JC Penney, Tysons Corner boasts many options you won't find anywhere else in the area. dELiA's, Mary Englebreit, J.Jill and L.L. Bean are just a handful of stores that make their local homes exclusively at Tysons Corner where Route 7, Route 123 and I-495 come together in Tysons Corner, VA. This atrium-lit, modern, airy space also presents fashion shows, musical programs for kids, walking programs for seniors and other events throughout the year.

Tysons Galleria is across Route 123 from Tysons Corner Center, making the entire area a shopper's paradise. The Galleria is home to more than 100 stores including Macy's, Crate & Barrel, Cartier, Lacoste, Bose, FAO Schwarz, Sharper Image and Williams-Sonoma Grande Cuisine.

Landmark Mall in Alexandria, VA is growing. In Addition to Hecht's and Sears, the mall recently added an Old Navy and will be including a Lord & Taylor in the fall. Shoppers at the mall's more than 100 stores – that include Dior Fashion, Eddie Bauer, The Gap

and Structure – can also take in live music or find a pet at the Animal Welfare League’s Pet Adoption program at the mall.

Springfield Mall in Springfield, VA considers itself a family mall. With events like senior morning matinees, fashion shows, collectibles shows and visits from the Easter bunny, it’s easy to see why. Two-hundred thirty stores including JC Penney, Macy’s, Brookstone, the Bombay Company, Britches and Sports Authority make Springfield Mall one of the largest in the area.

Truly, we in metro Washington love our malls. Where else can you find so much, all in one place? When you’re ready to do some serious shopping, head to one of the malls scattered like jewels on velvet across the metro landscape.

Other Area Malls

A sampling of the other malls in and around the area:

THE DISTRICT

The Shops at Georgetown Park

Wisconsin Avenue and M Street NW
www.shopsatgeorgetownpark.com

MARYLAND

City Place Mall

8661 Colesville Road
Silver Spring

Lake Forest Mall

701 Russell Avenue
Gaithersburg
www.shoplakeforest.com

Westfield Shoppingtown

Wheaton Plaza
11160 Viers Mill Road
Wheaton
www.wheatonshoppingtown.com

White Flint Mall

11301 Rockville Pike
North Bethesda
www.shopwhiteflint.com

Beltway Plaza Mall

6600 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt
www.beltwayplaza.com

Forest Village Park Mall

3993 Donnell Drive
Forrestville
www.shopSimon.com

Iverson Mall

3737 Branch Avenue
Hillcrest Heights
www.iversonmall.com

Landover Mall

2103 Brightseat Road
Landover

Laurel Mall

14828 Baltimore Avenue
Laurel

Prince Georges Plaza

3500 East West Highway
Hyattsville
www.princegeorgesplaza.com

Westfield Shoppingtown Annapolis Mall

2002 Annapolis Mall
Annapolis
www.annapolisshoppingtown.com

The Mall in Columbia

10300 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia
www.themallincolumbia.com

St. Charles Towne Center and Plaza

11110 Mall Circle
Waldorf
www.shopSimon.com

VIRGINIA

Ballston Common Mall

4238 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington
www.ballston-common.com

Crystal City Shops

US Highway 1 between 15th and 23rd Streets
Arlington
www.thecrystalcityshops.com

Fashion Centre at Pentagon City

100 South Hayes Street
Arlington
www.shopSimon.com

Manassas Mall

8300 Sudley Road
Manassas
www.manassasmall.com

Dulles Town Center

21100 Dulles Town Circle
Dulles
www.shopdullestowncenter.com

Downtown Shopping Offers Eclectic Mix

When you need a new outfit, you head for the mall, when you need a new washer and dryer, you head for the big electronics and appliance store. But what about some handcrafted pottery, an heirloom quilt or an antique sideboard? If unique, one—of—a-kind items are what you like to shop for, than you need to visit the downtown shopping districts of charming towns in the metro area.

There's an eclectic mix of shops and services available that give each downtown its own character and panache. While browsing from store to store, break for lunch at one of the restaurants or funky cafes that dot the downtown areas. You won't be disappointed.

Here is a sampling of some of the vibrant downtowns in the metro region:

Leesburg, Virginia

www.leesburgonline.com
Steeplechase and foxhunts, inns, restaurants and

shops such as the Devonshire English garden Shop and Gourmet Kitchen Plus.

Alexandria, Virginia

www.ci.alexandria.va.us
Historically significant architecture, eclectic shops and The Torpedo Factory Arts Center, showcasing handmade pottery, jewelry and other artwork.

Fredrick, Maryland

www.citoffredrick.com Antiques and unique items in stores like The Little Green Inn and Gartner's Country Store.

Kensington, Maryland

www.tok.com Picturesque downtown featuring Antique Row, as well as many specialty shops such as All Books Considered and Patrapon, a bridal shop.

The Big Department Stores Have It All

Okay, you've just moved in. Right away you're going to need, well, everything! So, you arm yourself with your map, your cell phone, and a long list: shower curtains, a TV for that extra room, storage bin, wastepaper baskets – whatever it is, you need to find it fast.

You know where the malls are, but your list doesn't include fashion items or unique accessories. You want the everyday, useful, uncomplicated things that make up metro life. You need to head to the stores that crop up around the malls. They have just what you're looking for and in a familiar place. Before you hit the Beltway, take a spin on the information superhighway to find the we-got-it-all-stores near you.

In addition to clothes for men, women and kids, **Kohl's Department Stores** (www.Kohls.com) carry home products from luggage to small electronics. Whether it's the music room or the laundry room that needs special attention, you can outfit it at an area **Best Buy** (www.bestbuy.com) where you'll find consumer electronics, personal appliances and computers.

To set up your new digs in style, look for the latest trends, at the best prices at the store USA Today declares is "in" – **Target**. There are plenty of Target

(www.target.com) locations in the metro area. If you can't find what you're looking for at **Wal-Mart** (www.walmart.com), you probably don't need it. The unbelievable variety and genuine customer service make a stop here a must for any new homeowner.

And there's a bonus when you head to one of the big all-inclusive stores. Usually they are surrounded by more stores that carry specific products, giving you more choices and more selection.

Get Out There – To The Outlets

If you love shopping, then you know there can never be too many stores. But the ultimate shopping experience isn't about getting the best stuff – it's about getting the best stuff at the best price. And the best place to do that is at the outlet mall.

No matter where you've moved to in the metro area, there's a state-of-the-art outlet mall well under an hour's drive away. And, even though the prices are low budget, the shopping experience is top of the line. The area outlet malls have similar services, amenities, eateries and ambience you'll find at other shopping meccas.

The two mega outlet malls in the Washington area are **Arundel Mills**, near Baltimore-Washington Airport, and **Potomac Mills**, south of Washington off I-95. Arundel Mills has 200 stores, including Off 5th – Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet, Old Navy Outlet and Bed, Bath & Beyond. Specialty shops include Skechers, Benneton and Aeropostale.

Potomac Mills is home to 220 stores such as IKEA, Syms, TJ Maxx, JC Penney Outlet, Nordstrom RACK and Burlington Coat Factory. Some of the specialty stores are Ann Taylor Factory Store, Oilily Outlet and the Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store.

Another concentration of outlets are in Leesburg,

VA at the intersection of Route 7 and the Route 15 bypass. **The Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets** feature 110 stores including Banana Republic, Burberry, Nike and Williams-Sonoma. Ten miles east of the Bay Bridge on Maryland's Eastern Shore is **Prime Outlets of Queenstown** where Route 50 and Route 301 diverge. Queenstown has 55 stores with nationally-known names like Jones New York, Geoffrey Beene, Nine West, Corning Revere and Pfaltzgraff.

Arundel Mills

7000 Arundel Mills Circle
Hanover, Maryland
www.millscorp.com/arundel
410-540-5100

Potomac Mills

2700 Potomac Mills Circle
Woodbridge, Virginia
www.millscorp.com/potomac
800-VA-MILLS, 703-643-1770

Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets

241 Fort Evans Road NE
Leesburg, Virginia
www.chelseagca.com
703-737-3071

Prime Outlets of Queenstown

441 Outlet Center Drive
Queenstown, Maryland
www.primeoutlets.com
410-827-8654