



THE BEST

ONLINE

Shopping Guide 2010

SOMETIMES THE INTERNET CAN BE A WONDER AND A TIME-SUCKING CURSE COMBINED. THIS WILL SAVE YOU FROM ANOTHER BLEARY-EYED SEARCH SESSION AND UNLOCK ALL THAT IS STYLISH, FUN AND INSPIRATIONAL ON THE WEB RIGHT NOW AND WE'VE EVEN MADE SURE THAT THEY ALL SHIP TO MALAYSIA! SO READ ON, YOU ARE JUST ONE CLICK AWAY FROM FINDING SOMETHING TRULY AMAZING! BY DEBORAH RAJ

3 *must-knows before you buy:*

1. Return policy

Will you receive a refund or a store credit? How long do you have to send it back? If it's 30 days, is it 30 days from when you placed your order or once you receive it? Do you pay to ship returns or does the seller?

2. Shipping costs

Always read through the prices and fees especially when ordering something large or from overseas. Also keep an eye out for tax or duties from customs that may be incurred once the item reaches its destination.

3. Contact info

Make a note of a phone number or email address just in case something goes wrong. Better still, contact the seller beforehand to confirm that they can fulfil your request and to make sure they are legit.

Fashion



Satisfy your street-tooth

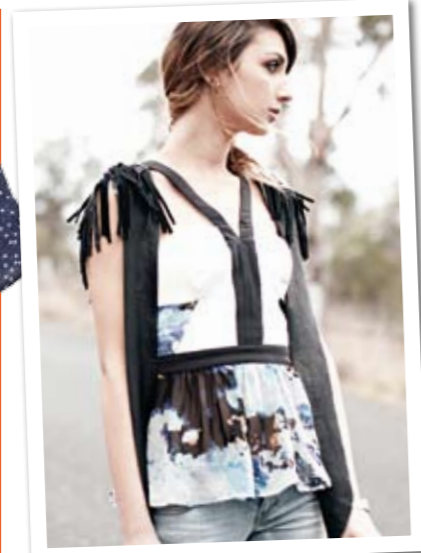
goodasgold.co.nz

Home to apparel for both sexes, designer toys and accessories that would not usually be found in a clothes shop, Good as Gold or lovingly known as G.A.G. is a "street boutique" like the ones you'd find in New York, Paris or Berlin. It's a place where a new generation of youths and young professionals can come and get something "special" (brands like Karen Walker, Stolen Girlfriends Club grace this space) but also feel comfortable in a relaxed yet stylised environment.

Art is life

urbanoutfitters.com

If it was an option, we'd marry this site and live happily ever after. Clothing, stationery, homeware and that's just the start. From whimsical dresses to dance around in to quirky stationery you must have to write love letters on to customisable photo shower curtains so you can bathe and reminisce. This site scores 11 out of 10 for their ability to always bring a smile to our faces!



Distinctively downunder

pitbullmansion.com

With a bent toward urban and street culture (think kitschy cool) PitbullMansion has sourced a collection of unique items with a focus on Australian and New Zealand designers. Plus, all items are stocked in limited numbers so you can maintain your one-of-a-kind reputation, mate!



Clothes for fun

supre.com.au

If you've ever visited Australia or New Zealand, you wouldn't be a stranger to the Supre charm. Known for their loud dance music in-store, its main focus on fun, trendy clothing is now available in cyberspace. Bright designs and hot styles of the moment are abundant here but we especially heart the site function that allows you to view all items in a colour of your choice.

Attention-grabbing yet laid-back

pixiemarket.com

If catwalk runway's edginess married the variety of a supermarket, this would be their lovechild. So, if you're into having pieces that no one else has, Pixie Market will give you too many to choose from. Best explained as Lady Gaga meets Sienna Miller, the styles available here are easily where the Carrie Bradshaws of the future will shop. Plus there's a flat rate of USD15 for international shipping.



Timeless classics

shopthetrendboutique.com

These guys don't just sell trends, they sell the trends you want to wear. Here you'll find a tightly edited selection from today's best designers who have a keen sense of fabrication, craftsmanship and fits that work for everyone... period. They don't stock one-hit wonders, but instead scope out those items with longevity and versatility, ones that work now and will for years to come.



Luxe for less

goshcelebrityfashion.com.au

Renowned in Australia for offering celebrity style to smart shoppers who love the fast-changing pace of fashion as well as a wide selection of women's clothing and a range of prices, its fast delivery of overseas fashion trends and looks off the runway has made GOSH the point of contact for many a fashion-forward fashionista. Plus you can rest easy knowing that items are handpicked with a main focus on great fit, flattering style and durability.



Cool effortlessly

indiesin.com

Love strutting your stuff at street bazaars or flea markets and rummaging through junk fairs just to find that perfect vintage tee? Then this Singapore-based site is for you. Here, you'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to well-priced items from bold basics, Converse Chuck Taylors to vintage-inspired clutches.

Edgy basics

schwingschwung.com

This site has a sexy air of French tomboy chic to it – these seemingly simple pieces have a touch of cool and a whole truckload of attitude to boot.



The ultimate Asian fashion site

yesstyle.com

Every season, they bring the latest trends from designers from Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and many more. It is one of the few sites that represent a great platform for designers in Asia to connect with customers worldwide. Plus as a CLEO reader you get USD10 off any order of USD30 or more! Just use the code CLEO10 upon check out. The code is only valid for a one-time use per customer, shipping to Malaysia, throughout the month of November and December.



One-of-a-kind K-pop wear that's ethical too

storets.com

Here's a collective boutique that offers the latest fashion made or designed by Korean independent designers. Plus the items are made by legitimate adult workers. Unlike brands and boutiques that use sweat factories you may encounter frequent out-of-stock situations and higher cost than other brands. But you know it's ethical.

Keeping up with the Japanese

asoya.com

With such a comprehensive range of sizes for almost every style you've seen gracing the streets of fashion capitals like Tokyo, you'll be spoiled for choice. Check out cute-sexy brands like Spicy Holic or score some adorable yet practical workwear by Melissa. Plus, since it's based locally, if you spend over RM100 (Peninsular Malaysia) or RM150 (East Malaysia) you can enjoy free express shipping!



▲ Asoya

Affordable prices and great service

dailyboutique.com

This site has the friendliness and approachability of a blog shop but the security and standards you'd expect from an international Website. Ann and Russel fancy themselves fashion hunting hobbyist so the clothes are dainty and fun yet perfectly suited for everyday wear.

Sophisticated chic with a splash of pin-up glamour

iwearsin.com

Now before you decide to confess, SIN stands for Stylish Internet Natives – a label conceived on, and catered exclusively to the Internet. It is the brainchild of a global collaboration of creative forces. SIN is found nowhere, yet available everywhere. So whether you're a military mama minus the weaponry or a sailor girl who wants to cruise around in cool stripes, you're in for a real treat.



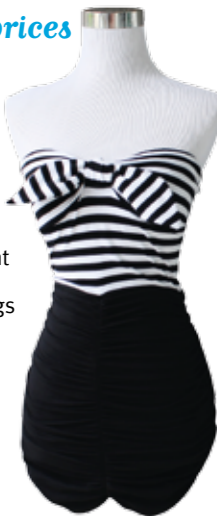
KIV TO SAVE MONEY ONLINE

After an online transaction, check your card history to make sure that the right amount was deducted. This is especially important if you're dealing with exchange rates or foreign currencies. The Alliance You:nique Prepaid Card lets you check your balances and transaction history via phone. Otherwise, you are just a few clicks away from viewing your card activity online.

Big brands at low prices

yellowcabtrappings.com

Sick of crowded and disorganised stores with salesgirls who silently judge you? This site brings fabulous items to you – pre-sifted! Search for what you want quickly or go straight to the SALES rack, the lovely people of Yellow Cab Trappings don't mind! Preferring variety over quantity, pieces are usually limited to one per size or for special items one in a standard size so speed is key!



Killer denim

jeansbaronline.com

The biggest misconception in the world of fashion – that there is only one perfect pair of jeans – is a fallacy. Who wants to wear just one style of jeans for the rest of their lives? Are you in the mood for a skinny? Want to get rough 'n' tough in a boot-cut? How about slinking around in a straight-leg? Whatever your fashion pursuit The Jeans Bar is here to help you avoid denim disasters and assist you in your quest.

A library of blogshops

dollsanctuary.com

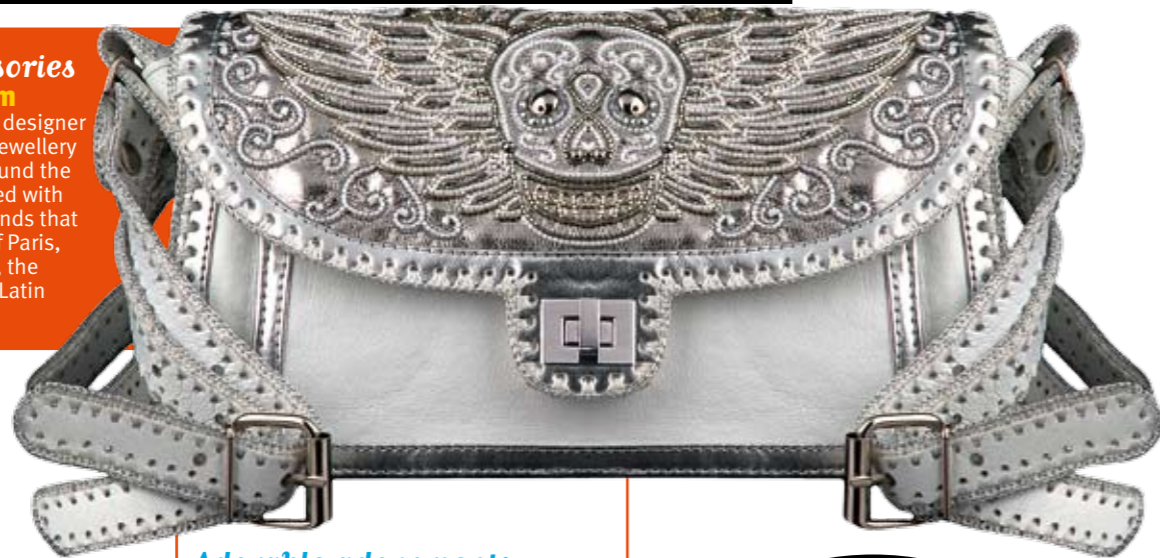
Need a skirt, top or jacket but don't want to spend hours scouring every single blog shop to find one? Well, with Doll Sanctuary, you don't have to. Simply click on the item of clothing you are after and you'll be transported to the blog shops that sell them! The site is easy to navigate and a great timer saver.



Accessories

Upmarket accessories doorstepluxury.com

This site brings the latest designer handbags, high-fashion jewellery and accessories from around the world. They have partnered with some of the very best brands that epitomise the romance of Paris, the quirkiness of London, the urban chic of NYC, or the Latin spirit of Sao Paulo.



Happy tootsies live here

tres-tresors. blogspot.com

Catwalk-inspired heels, wedges and flats are showcased here in specific sizes but don't fret if you're not Cinderella, you can email Andrea to place your order. You will have to pay for them in full beforehand but these bad boys are too good to resist!



Low low prices, hot hot shoes

theshoecupboard.net

Let your shoe fetish run wild here. Orders are placed on a per batch basis where a RM100 deposit is required and the rest once you are notified that the shoes have arrived at KL customs. The website is clearly categorised (clogs, wedges, sandals to name a few) to save you precious shopping time while each shoe is adorably named (Poppy, Lydia and Vanessa are eager to be your new friends). Better still the lovely sellers cross-check their prices but if you see a blogshop selling the same item for a lower price (and can prove it, obviously), they'll gladly honour the lower price!



Adorable adornments soakrepublic.com

Formed by three art lovers who travel and hunt for treasures and things that make people happy, you can expect funky rings, funfair-inspired charms, diva-licious bags as well as epic earrings.



One-stop bag shop grabbs.wordpress.com

Full of fresh and funky designs with fine quality and virtually unbeatable value, this site will even save you time as bags are divided into groups like hobo, tote, shoulder and clutch.

Whimsical bling wanderlustandco.com

Nothing quickens the female pulse more than a sparkly new find. At Wanderlust + Co, you'll find lovely pieces of jewellery to complete your outfit *du jour*. Sourced from all over and brought exclusively to you, each piece has a story to tell... a character within its design that sets it apart.



HOW TO PAY SAFELY ONLINE

▶ Use a browser that can protect you. It must be secure and use software that will encrypt your important information. Choose the browser's latest version because it has the updated encryption capability.

▶ Use a card that offers additional security features. The Alliance You:niche Prepaid Card is pre-enrolled with MasterCard SecureCode(TM) at no extra cost to help protect against unauthorised use. It's quick and easy to use. If you rarely shop online because of the possible risks involved, this enhanced service will give you the confidence to shop.

Vintage Baby!

1940s through to the grunge era

spanishmossvintage.com

Specialising in chic "of the moment" vintage clothing, these items are pre-owned and pre-loved; each piece with its own character and unique history. Fifty percent of the vintage clothing at Spanish Moss Vintage is tailored in-house, ensuring a one of a kind "statement piece" for the trend-setting fashionista but because they are usually limited to one piece, you've got to be quick!



Rare retro finds ilovesnackfood.com

Collectors of happy things, product curation on this site is based on these criteria: nostalgic, history and kitsch, and endeavour to surprise customers by randomly releasing items that are least expected and usually sourced from flea markets around the world - Tokyo, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Sweden, US and outskirts of Malaysia. They are also the exclusive distributor for Archie Grand notebooks.

Sensibly cool carry-alls thisisclubmod.blogspot.com

If you are crazy about bags this is the place to go. Mostly practically sized shoulder bags that can fit A4 folders or documents, we especially heart the airline-inspired messenger bags.



Lingerie

Time to turn up the heat! romanceculture.com

An online lingerie boutique based in Kuala Lumpur, the lovely couple who run the show pledge to bring you the most visually appealing lingerie that will make the girls go oooohhhh and the guys go aaaahhhh! They understand that lingerie is personal and intimate by nature and aim to make your online shopping experience as comfortable as possible. Get ready for some seriously sexy numbers that are guaranteed to sizzle.



Ooh-la-la lingerie figleaves.com

Rejoice for now you no longer have to bemoan about the lack of variety in stores! This is the ultimate online destination for lingerie, swimwear, nightwear and shapewear. An outstanding selection from pretty and demure lace tap pants to downright hot garters and bustiers. We especially heart how you can shop by occasion!



Bewitchingly cute lingerie shoplikeacelebrities.com

A bit of a mission to navigate unless you can read Chinese but the pictures speak a thousand words! This site is chock-a-block with an assortment of items (smoking hot but with a hint of cute and innocence) as well as fabulous prices that will send you squealing! From sexy fishnets, adorable sets, to lush robes, cheeky corsets and even seductive bedroom costumes, "boring" is definitely not a word that will come to mind. Well, you'll make your guy very happy!



Handmade Heaven



The ultimate craft fair etsy.com

Envision a market where artisans gather to sell their handmade items or hand-picked vintage finds. Now transfer that to a virtual realm and you get Etsy! A brilliant platform for burgeoning designers and other creatives to show of their skills, you'll love how they turn common items like aprons or socks into works of art!

Crowning glory sereniandshentel.com

Sereni and Shentel say their handmade headbands stem from a passion for dressing up for soirees and society balls. Available in just about every colour imaginable, they even have fun names like Mafia Mama, Ice Ice Baby and Kuching Cat.



Just charm-ing bracelets tinkerbello.blogspot.com

Lovingly handmade, this site sells some of the most beautiful (and budget-friendly) charm bracelets we've seen in a while. If you missed out, you can even request for a remake of sold-out ones!



Good enough to eat minibitesonline.blogspot.com

Satisfy your sweet tooth with these handcrafted miniature food jewellery! You'll drool over the brownie ring, doughnut studs and cupcake earrings as each and every piece is detailed and made to look just like the real thing, minus the calories.



Art for your everyday poketo.com

Poketo is an innovator in artist-designed lifestyle wares. The founders of this site, Ted, filmmaker and Angie, graphic designer, were always curating shows for artist friends but there was one problem. No one could afford to buy the art displayed so they came up with an affordable solution to satisfy everyone's art lust. They created limited-edition artist wallets that were accessible and well designed. Having a Poketo wallet was and still is like having a travelling art show with you at all times. Since then, many other items have been added to the extensive repertoire of everyday art!

Jewellery for dreamers mimpimurni.blogspot.com

This proud-to-be-Malaysian blogshop is all about cute sass and elegant simplicity. Murni uses hard-to-find vintage pendants and charms, and promises that she would never make anything that she wouldn't personally wear!

Prettify your wrist the-mini-diary.blogspot.com

This site is a little pricier but the whimsical charms Wendy uses are adorable! Just take note that there's a two- to three-week wait once you've paid for your order.



Beauty



Organic skincare koraorganics.com

Your skin is the largest organ on your body so it's vital that you take the utmost care. This is why KORA is made from plant-derived and certified organic ingredients. Created by Miranda Kerr, these products are infused with antioxidant-rich noni, essential fatty acids, herbal extracts, essential oils, vitamins A, C and E, and many other highly rejuvenating and replenishing ingredients that are designed to nourish and re-hydrate the skin.

Branded cosmetics at discounted prices my.strawberrynet.com

With the largest supply of products from top brands such as Lancôme, Dior, Estée Lauder and Calvin Klein Fragrances, we wouldn't be surprised if these guys were the world's leading provider of discounted designer skincare, make-up, cosmetics, fragrances, cologne and hair care. On top of that, they also offer free shipping on selected items.

Over 9,000 brands www.freshfragrancesandcosmetics.com

Fresh Fragrances and Cosmetics has an extensive range of beauty products, fragrances and cosmetics at heavily discounted prices. Combine that with free shipping to anywhere in the world and free gift wrapping and you have a fresh alternative to all your beauty needs!



Muah! mylipstuffmalaysia.blogspot.com

My Lip Stuff lip balms are handmade, skin-earth-animal-friendly natural lip balms, available in more than 500 flavours (from green tea to mango sorbet to novelty ones like cat pee – it's not meant to be taken literally). Possibly the best moisturizing lip balm on the planet, the wide range of flavours means you're sure to find one that suits you! Each tube of lip balm is priced at RM12, excluding shipping.

Fun and flirty jellypongpong.com.my

Halt in the name of make-up chic and ease! Jelly Pong Pong Cosmetics presents a truly scrumptious fare of cosmetics catering to the "one swipe and go" woman. These portable, fuss-free products in classic and contemporary shades let you create an effortless, healthy and sexy look anywhere.



Naturally beautiful lovingminerals.com

Stocking only the safest and most luxurious mineral cosmetics at unbelievably low prices, these products have been tried and tested repeatedly to suit Asian skin tones, skin types and our humid weather perfectly. Now you can invest in pure, safe, natural cosmetics and not just in a fancy brand name.



Handmade soap soap-n-scent.com

These natural soaps have been designed and formulated to make bath time a treat. You'll find key ingredients like rice bran oil (an excellent moisturiser), palm oil (for superior conditioning and cleansing), natural glycerine (which makes soap gentle on the skin and attracts moisture to your skin) in each bar. Choose from delicious variants like Apple Cinnamon, Goat Milk Mandarin Chocolate, Honey Wholewheat and Sesame Scrub and many more.

A bubbling font for Asian cosmetic brands theorangeco.com

Shipped directly from Korea, they also stock EcoBeau, a skincare line that was exclusively launched in Singapore that is said to suit even the most delicate and sensitive skin types. Furthermore because they operate online, their prices are apparently 30 to 75 percent cheaper.

