

10 BEST WEST LONDON SHOPS

There are a wealth of independent shops, mainly in Kensington and Notting Hill, with many gift ideas under £50.

MARKETS: Chelsea Antiques Market. Open Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm, 245-255 King's Rd, SW3. Portobello Market. Open Saturday 10am-5pm (www.portobellomarket.org).

THE CROSS

Why it's special: this boutique mixes fashion, kids' wear and houseware.

Great gift: Scantique Scandinavian glass or ceramics, from £70.

Contact: 141 Portland Road, W11 (020 7727 6886).

MARRYAT

Why it's special: laid out like a private house and filled with beautiful antiques and curiosities.

Great gift: curved peach Art Deco mirror, £34.

Contact: 88 Sheen Road, Richmond (020 8332 0262), www.marryat-antiques.co.uk.

ANDEA JEWELLERY

Why it's special: the ideal place for unconventional jewellery designs in handcrafted Mexican silver. It also stocks gorgeous greetings cards and wrapping paper.

Great gift: heart charm bracelet, £150.

Contact: 203 Portobello Road, W11 (020 7723 5690), www.andea-jewellery.co.uk.

PRELWAY INTERIORS

Why it's special: the furniture collection combines contemporary shapes with classic elegance.

Great gift: ceramic coffee cup with rose-shaped handles, £25.

Contact: 48 Walton Street, SW3 (020 7584 8223), www.prelwayinteriors.com.

COCO RIBBON

Why it's special: its collection of cashmere, Loita wrapped soaps, peony bath oil and tribal bangles combines kitsch and elegance.

Great gift: A World to Explore silver trinket box, £58.

Contact: 21 Kensington Park Road, W11 (020 7229 4904), www.cocoribbon.com.

PORTOBELLO ROAD CASHMERE SHOP

Why it's special: great-quality Scottish cashmere in a huge range of designs and colours.

Great gift: stripy scarves, £25; striped beanie (right), £30.



Go west: boutique style at The Cross

Contact: 116 Portobello Rd, W11 (020 7792 2571), www.portobellocashmereshop.com.

EULALIEE

Why it's special: an offbeat boutique that sells absolutely everything – from paints, cushions and hot chilli jelly to £250 Vivienne Westwood-style dresses.

Great gift: skinny grey silk scarves, printed with white hearts, £20.

Contact: 116 College Road, NW10 (020 8960 4026), www.eulalieeoffbeatalegreen.com.

FEW AND FAR

Why it's special: winner of the Best New Shop at the British Design Awards 2008, Priscilla Carluccio's store offers quirky one-off pieces, crafted children's toys – and four types of chocolate cake.

Great gift: fresh strawberries stuffed with almond paste, £25 per box.

Contact: 242 Brompton Road, SW3 (020 7225 7070), www.fewandfar.net.

JOANNA WOOD

Why it's special: classic British designs with injections of the Scottish Highlands.

Great gift: hand-made recycled leather notebooks in lime, aqua and lilac, £17.50.

Contact: 48a Pitt-Rivers Road, SW1 (020 7730 5064), www.joannawood.co.uk.

BLENEHIM BOOKS

Why it's special: sells inspirational books on photography, design and architecture.

Great gift: Lost Africa, The Eyes of the Origins by Cyril Christo and Marie Wilkinson, £20.

Contact: 11 Blenheim Crescent, W11 (020 7292 0777), www.blenheimbooks.co.uk.

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