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Kolkata City Centre Shopping by Lek Boonlert

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Kolkata has a whole host of shopping opportunities available â€“ from small independent shops selling local handicrafts, to a huge number of shopping malls with a wide range of shops selling international goods. Kolkata City Centre hotels are all located within easy distance of many of the malls and strolling round them is a fun way to pass an afternoon, particularly if the weather is too hot to be outside, as the air-conditioned atmosphere provides a welcome relief from the heat.

The main malls that provide a more Westernised shopping experience include the Metropolis Mall, The City Center, The Metro Plaza, The South City Mall, The Forum, The Shreeram Arcade, and the Mani Square Supermall.

There are also a wide range of markets which are fun to explore, many of which specialise in particular products. Chandni Market is a good place to buy small electronic goods and gadgets; New Market is best for toys and clothing; and Maidan Market is a great place to buy sporting items, many at vastly lower prices than you would expect to find elsewhere. New Market also is a good source of souvenirs and local handicrafts to take home. Saris from Shantiniketan, leather goods, Bankura horses and local foods are all plentiful at this market which is as popular with locals as it is with tourists.

The district of Rabindra Sarani is where you will experience a truly Indian shopping experience with traditional alleyways selling a wide range of every type of ware imaginable â€“ spices, jewellery, fabric and electronic goods all jostle together along with the throngs.

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