Article published on July 31st 2012 | Shopping

When you think of the great shopping cities in England most people go straight to images of Carnaby Street or Brick Lane in London. Doubtless, the English capital has a huge variety of designer shops, markets and vintage stores but they can be busy, have huge queues and things can be that bit more expensive than in other cities.

So why not broaden your horizons and explore a bit further north for better value for your money. Birmingham may not immediately spring to mind when you think of an excellent shopping experience but the city is home to the Bullring, which has over 160 stores for you to explore at your leisure. There is even a Selfridges and a variety of dining options to keep you fuelled up for carrying all those bags

Manchesterâ€™s Trafford Centre is another northern shopping mecca and has a massive 11,500 on-site free parking spaces, making it easily accessible to commuters from across the country. The centre has over 200 stores inside and even provides entertainment and events including book signings, flash dances and sport on big screens to keep reluctant shoppers entertained and to give you peace to shop.

If you're heading further north then why not check out Eldon Square in the heart of Newcastle? It has everything within walking distance, including a luxury leisure club, over 150 stores and a variety of dining options. It could not be easier to reach, with direct links from Newcastle International Airport, Central Rail Station and the International Ferry Terminal for those travelling from further afield.

You can also get there on the Metro light rail system or if you prefer to be green and cycle there are facilities for leaving your bike when you arrive. Eldon Square really does have a store for everyone, whether youâ€™re looking for some accessories in Accessorize or fancy picking up some world famous brands like Apple, Guess or Hollister, youâ€™ll find them all Newcastle.

If youâ€™re exhausted and need to refuel to continue your hard day's retail therapy, there is everything from sushi to Starbucks on offer in Eldon Square. And, if it reaches closing time and you canâ€™t carry another bag, check into one of the fantastic hotels Newcastle.

And for any tourists making the most of Britain's excellent shops, remember you can claim VAT back on the majority of your purchases. The bargains just got even better.

Article Source:
http://www.articleside.com/shopping-articles/best-shopping-cities-in-england.htm - Article Side

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Article Keywords:
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