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Kota Kinabalu City Centre Shopping

by Lek Boonlert

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Kota Kinabalu has five major shopping centres: Karamunsing Complex, KK Plaza, Wisma Merdeka, Wawasan 2020 Plaza, and Centre Point, most of which are open from 10 am to 10 pm. There are also markets such as the Gaya Street Fair, which is held every Sunday at 8 am. Each centre has particular specialties, and Kota Kinabalu city centre hotels will be able to offer advice on the best locations for certain items.

Shopping Centres

Most of the shopping centres have a variety of stores, selling everything from antiques, books, souvenirs and fresh food, to camping equipment and computers.

The antique shops are very popular with tourists, and they sell a variety of objects including watches, grandfather clocks, colonial hats and pottery. However, before parting with any money, tourists are advised to ensure that they know what they should be looking for in a genuine antique item.

A good collection of books is available from either Borneo Books or Irawase. Many of these are well-designed with some spectacular photographs. For general stationery, Etonâ€™s in Centre Point is well stocked with dictionaries, magazines, postcards, maps and local cookery books.

The shopping complexes have stores selling many well-known fashion brands such as Calvin Klein, Timberland, and Dockers. To pick up a bargain, it is best to visit during the Mega Sales Festivals. Malaysia has many factories, so clothes and shoes are often cheaper than in other countries such as Singapore.

Local Markets

Local markets are good for picking up local handicrafts. The Filipino Market at the port of Kota Kinabalu offers many souvenirs and handicrafts at reasonable prices. The towns and villages around Kota Kinabalu also hold flea markets every Sunday, where the visitor can find a range of goods including vegetables, poultry, traditional musical instruments, fruit and handicrafts.

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