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Shopping in Osaka by Lek Boonlert

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Shinsaibashi is Osakaâ€™s main shopping district and offers everything under the sun for travellers looking for a city shopping experience. From huge Japanese department stores selling goods at budget prices to expensive Western boutique-style stores selling only the most exclusive of fashion items there really is something for everyone in the Shinsaibashi district.

Amerika-mura is also located inside the Shinsaibashi district and is particularly popular with younger people. Also called the â€œAmerican Villageâ€•, this area is said to be one of the main sources for the latest in youth fashion in Japan. Near Amerika-mura is a long street of mainly Japanese-brand shops which curious visitors from abroad will find very interesting.

Japan, of course, is well known for its consumer electronics industry and the Nipponbashi area, south-east of Namba, is the place for finding the latest in cameras, laptops and MP3 players. Many good deals on various gadgets can be found here but Osakans prefer the huge new Yodobashi Camera for discount deals.

For a live exhibition of daily Osaka life the Tenjinbashi-suji shopping street is the ideal place. This 2.6 km street is so packed with buyers and vendors that sight-seeing is somewhat difficult, but as a market that has been open since the Edo period it is definitely worth a visit.

Osaka is definitely a great shopping destination and also benefits from a wide range of hotels. Hotels in Osaka vary from the budget to the exclusive but always provide a welcome rest after a long dayâ€™s shopping.

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