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Shopping in Sihanoukville by Lek Boonlert

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Since the city is not overly recognised as being an Asian shopping Mecca, you may need to get information about where to go and what to buy from either the Cambodian locals or at one of the hotels in Sihanoukville. Even though there is less of an emphasis on traditional local crafts here, you still have the opportunity to purchase some excellent quality clothing, decorative ornaments, hand-loomed silk scarves, home accessories, and wall hangings.

If you decide to do some shopping at the numerous shops located along the roads near the beaches, you will be able to find a wide range of bags, beachwear, jewellery, and other items that you would normally find when shopping in any other Southeast Asian coastal city. In any event, recently the locals have been rediscovering their natural talent for handcrafting and weaving top quality traditional products.

However, the most recommended shopping area in Sihanoukville is the Upper Market, known to the locals as Phsar Leu. No visitor to the city should miss experiencing this as it is the cityâ€™s largest and most traditional shopping venue. Some of the stalls are open-air, while others are roofed over and dimly lit. You will find a wide range of different items here including auto parts, clothing, jewellery, meats, and vegetables. Phsar Leu opens daily at sunrise and stays open until the sun sets in the late afternoon. Be prepared for crowds and a lot of noise as the locals haggle with the vendors continuously.

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