

## Harrods

'All things for all people everywhere' The store that began life as a small grocers shop now covers the entire block with 300 departments over seven floors and employs over 5000 people. Harrods has the difficult task of adapting to its role as top tourist attraction without compromising its legendary status as the best store in town. Much has been made of the dress code that has been introduced (it is displayed on all the entrance doors) with critics saying it is simply a way of discriminating against low spenders, while the advocates say it is a long overdue measure to restore some level of decorum. If you are visiting Harrods for the first time, it is a good idea to pick up the free store guide from the information desk which is just inside entrance door number 5 (the door nearest to the tube station exit). There are 10 entrances in total and the Left Luggage facility is located at Door 2A to the rear of Harrods on Basil Street. Going into the store carrying large bags or backpacks is not permitted.



## Harvey Nichols

Harvey Nicks, as it is often called, is the one-stop store for designerwear. The prices here are possibly on par with the prices in Harrods, but the range of clothes and accessories from the big names is unrivalled. There is a lift that goes directly from the street entrance up to the fifth floor to the restaurant and cafe, and, unusually for a department store, also to the food hall.

## Salvatore Ferragamo

Born in Naples in 1898, Salvatore Ferragamo had his own shoemaking workshop employing six craftsmen by the time he was just fourteen years old. The original and often theatrical shoe designs that made him famous appeared in the 1920s after he had emigrated to America and set up shop in Hollywood. Often involving the use of exotic materials such as ostrich and lizard skin, the designs are more conservative these days but the shoes are still highly regarded for the quality of workmanship.

## Caroline Charles

A number of well-known clothing designers have chosen Beauchamp Place to showcase and sell their work. Bruce Oldfield and Susanne Neville, can be found on the left side of the street as you walk down from Brompton Road. Cross over for Isabell Kristensen, Caroline Charles and Lalage Beaumont. Many showbiz stars have chosen to wear Caroline Charles outfits over the years, and on her 40th anniversary she was awarded an OBE for services to the British Fashion Industry. Lalage Beaumont is an English designer (her name is pronounced la-la-gee) whose elegant designs feature unusual and colourful fabrics, tweeds from the oldest mill in England, jacquard silks, and exclusive embroideries and prints.



## The Map House

Six galleries of antique maps and prints for sale, said to be the largest collection in the world. Maps of all periods are represented, ranging from rare and often unique cartographic incunabula of the 15th century, through to the wildly decorative maps of the 18th century. They also stock prints and engravings of various subjects such as architecture, natural history and sports. For all items purchased the Map House will provide descriptions and Certificates of Authenticity on request.

## Gina

The luxury shoe shop named after the 1960's Italian filmstar Gina Lollobrigida, although the shoes are all handmade here in London. Delicate stitching, up to twenty per inch, is a measure of careful attention to detail. The world's most ostentatious and expensive alligator slippers, with gold buckles and inlaid with diamonds were manufactured by Gina, as acknowledged by the Guinness Book of Records.



## Pucci

The windows of Pucci are often the most colourful on Sloane Street. Ready-to-wear clothes and accessories for women, the brilliant fabrics are either original prints by the Italian designer or new designs in the same distinctive style. Emilio Pucci was born into one of Italy's noble families and the company still keeps its headquarters in their palace in Florence.

## Highlights

# KNIGHTSBRIDGE

### NOTES:

★ Brompton Road is home to Harrod's department store and the reason for most people to visit. If arriving by Underground, you can follow the signs from the station platform down a tunnel which leads directly to Harrods' entrance.

★ Brompton Road is not nice for window shopping. The pavements are narrow, and being one of the major routes into London from the West, it is often choked with traffic.

★ A five minute walk beyond Harrods brings you to the small street on the left called Beauchamp Place (pronounced 'Beecham') where the shops and restaurants are on a much smaller scale and the atmosphere is more leisurely.

★ Glamorous flagships of all the big international fashion houses are to be found along Sloane Street, one after another, but for some reason, a rather lifeless atmosphere always seems to prevail here.

## Shanghai Tang

These days it is not unusual to find the made-in-China label on clothes wherever you shop, but the difference here is that everything is to an original Chinese design but brought up-to-date, such as Mao jackets in velvet, Mongolian cashmere sweaters, and cheong sams.

## Borshtch & Tears

The Russian restaurant has been on Beauchamp Place since the Sixties. It is known for its evenings of live entertainment as much as for the menu, which has rabbit and other game, as well as more common Russian food such as shuba and shashlik. On some nights, there is karaoke singing in the basement with a mixture of English and Russian songs.



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- (2) Harvey Nichols
- (3) Gina
- (4) Shanghai Tang
- (5) Salvatore Ferragamo
- (6) Pucci
- (7) Borshtch & Tears
- (8) Caroline Charles
- (9) The Map House

