

SHOPPING

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SHOPPING

Shopping in Rio can mean anything from browsing boutiques in peaceful Leblon to strolling the teeming stalls at the Feira Nordestina on weekends. Not surprisingly, beach and casual wear are a big part of the scene, but less well known are the great variety of stores selling antiques, custom-made handicrafts, wine and spirits, handmade jewelry, records and CDs, coffee-table books and one-of-a-kind goods found only in Rio (such as colorful Gilson Martins' handbags).

If you're looking for a hot new outfit for the night, start your shopping foray in Ipanema, and keep in mind that many stores are hidden inside multistory buildings. See p114 for a cheat sheet on some of these well-concealed boutiques. For a more colorful, chaotic experience, metro it up to Centro, where the narrow pedestrian lanes of Saara are packed with discount goods of all shapes and sizes – plus costume essentials come Carnival time. Copacabana has a bit of high-end and plenty of frenzy for those wanting the complete experience.

Something of an institution in Rio is the *shopping* (mall), which is a good place to hide away when bad weather arrives. In addition to hunting for sales, you can grab a bite (some malls, such as Shopping Botafogo, have restaurants with panoramic views) or catch a film.

Open-air markets are never far away in Rio. Delectable tropical fruits and vegetables dominate, but you'll also find markets selling used CDs and records, furniture, clothing and handicrafts.

All listings in this chapter are organized by shopping genre (accessories, books, clothing etc) within each neighborhood.

OPENING HOURS

Most stores in Centro open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday. A few open on Saturday, usually from 10am to 1pm. In the Zona Sul, stores open from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday, though some stay open until 8pm or 9pm. On Saturday, shopping hours are 10am to 2pm. Only a few of the big shopping malls open on Sunday – from about 3pm to 8pm.

CONSUMER TAXES

Most stores list their prices with the tax already included, so what you see on the price tag is the total price you'll pay for the goods.

IPANEMA & LEBLON

Ipanema and Leblon are the best hunting grounds for top fashion designs (both home-grown and foreign labels). You'll also find curio and novelty stores, galleries, bookshops, liquor stores and plenty of cafés for refueling along the way. There's a lot going on along the main thoroughfare (Rua Visconde de Pirajá in Ipanema and Av Ataulfo de Paiva in Leblon).

GILSON MARTINS Map p64 Accessories

☎ 2227-6178; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 462, Ipanema; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat Designer Gilson Martins turns the silhouette of Corcovado into a fashion statement in

his flagship store in Ipanema. In addition to glossy handbags, wallets and other accessories, the shop has a gallery in the back with ongoing exhibitions. Gilson also has a **Copacabana branch** (Map p76; Rua Figueiredo Magalhães 304).

DAQUI Map p66 Accessories & Home Decor

☎ 2529-8576; Av Ataulfo de Paiva 1174, Leblon; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat

This sweet little boutique sells graphic T-shirts made by Brazilian designers, delicate jewelry, kids' clothes (including leather slippers with animal faces), wind-up toys, colorful luminaries, kitschy vases and other crafty curiosities for the home.

INTERSTUDIO Map p64 Art & Home Decor

☎ 2511-1237; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 595, Ipanema; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat

This small Ipanema shop sells some beautifully made art pieces, including large wooden carvings by Pernambuco artisans and captivating Rio landscape paintings by Italian painter Vittorio Cannone (costing around R\$550). Worldwide shipping is available.

URUCUM ART & DESIGN

Map p64 Art & Home Decor

☎ 2540-9990; Rua Visconde de Pirajá 605, Ipanema; ☎ noon-7pm Mon-Sat

In the same complex as the cinema **Estação Ipanema** (p172), this tiny shop sells hand-