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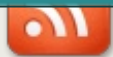
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July 14th, 2016 


Panamá has it all

Panama's merchants, operating in one of the great crossroads of the world, bring to the isthmus the finest merchandise and the volume generated by buyers who flock in from all over the Americas guarantees variety and excellent prices. A Value Added Tax of only 7%, one of the lowest in Lat-in America, has also helped to make Panama the shopping destination per excellence for the region. The Colon Free Zone is a significant contributor to Panama's success as a shopping center. Many wholesalers operating in the Colon Free Zone have retail outlets in Panama City which draw on the huge variety offered in the zone and pass price advantage on to their customers and of course many visitors come to visit the Free Zone itself, either to buy in bulk or to take advantage of the companies there who will do retail business.

 feeds

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Maps



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Panama's old-established and traditional shopping areas are Avenida Central, now a pedestrian precinct, and Calidonia, on Via España. Shops in those areas are noisy and bustling. Prices are economical but the experience is not for the meek. There is a good selection of shopping on Via España in the main hotel and banking area, which also offers the Plaza Concordia. Casco Antiguo, the World heritage site, makes a picturesque shopping destination with many interesting boutiques and souvenir stores. Sidewalk cafes and restaurants add to the ambience. Paitilla, Marbella and Obarrio are upper-class neighborhoods with many fine shops located in converted homes, strip-malls or on the ground floor of skyscrapers. However, Panama's malls seem to be the main shopping attraction nowadays.

Malls in Panama City

Malls have become part of the city life where people go not just to spend money but to be entertained. They are home to shops, restaurants, cinemas and even bars, depending on the locations. The parking lot in any mall, any afternoon of the week, will testify to their popularity.

Albrook Mall

This is the biggest mall in the country, located near Albrook Gran Terminal where buses depart to and arrive from the interior. The mall has a hotel, casino, bars, supermarket, several food courts, wide passages, stadium-type cinemas with capacity for 2,500 people, completely air-conditioned department and brand stores and 5,000 parking spaces

with strict security. It can be intimidating because of its size, but there are virtual maps with tactile screens to guide shoppers as well as security guards on hand to give directions.

For the latest news and coming events go to **THE VISITOR** newspaper

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Full Forecast ▶
27°C
Hi: 34° Lo: 25°
Feels Like: 30°
Clear
Ciudad De Panama, Panama
Humidity: 74%
Visibility: 10km
Pressure: 1014hPa
Wind: 9km/h 320° NW
Cloud Cover: 0%
Precipitation: 0.0mm
Sunrise: 06:14 AM
Sunset: 06:28 PM
Day Length: 12:14
Moonrise: 03:45 AM
Moonset: 04:00 PM
Waning Crescent
© AddGadgets.com

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Albrook Mall.

The mall has a hallway system where the areas are named after animals with sculptures of them for easy reference.

Multicentro

Located on Balboa Avenue, close to the coastal strip and the residential, financial and banking areas of Marbella and Paitilla, it is very centric, near Calle 50, Calle Uruguay, Via España and Via Argentina, which are home to some of the best and better-known shops, hotels and restaurants of the capital. It has more than 3,000 covered parking spaces, eight movie theaters, one supermarket, casino, food court, restaurants and high and low-end shops, all in

conditioned. The mall is smaller than Albrook, but has excellent shops. Its four-story design, with four mechanical escalators and mirror covered ceilings is striking

Multipiazza

This mall is located in Punta Pacifica. It has three levels with more than 400 shops and covered parking spaces. A total of 47 restaurants and cafes operate there, together with nine department stores, 16 luxury shops exclusive to Multipiazza, a



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hotel, 12
cinema
theaters
and a

supermarket. Among the prestigious brands that can be found there are: Cartier, Chanel, Bulgari, Hermés, Louis Vuitton and Tiffany. It is the only place in Latin America where these six brands can be found under one roof.

Multiplaza offers a discount card called "Panama Tourist Card" to all tourists. There is also a shuttle service from hotels and Tocumen airport. It caters to the needs of the Panamanian upper class. One well known anecdote is that Jennifer Lopez asked for the mall to be closed so that she could go shopping there with her then-husband, Marc Anthony.

Soho Mall

This mall, located on Calle 50, right in the middle of the financial and banking center, has more than 100 shops offering luxury international brands. It has the first Ritz Carlton Hotel of Central America, as well as a gym, spa, restaurants and movie theaters. This commercial center was built at a total cost of \$400 million.

Soho Mall is divided into four levels. The first one is dedicated to high fashion; the second focuses on sports and juvenile fashion and also has some restaurants. The third floor has shops selling sportswear, beach wear and leather goods, a gym and a deli. The fourth level is dedicated to gastronomy and entertainment with VIP cinemas, a food court and fine

restaurants.



Alta Plaza Mall.

Alta Plaza

Located on the Via Centenario, close to the Technological University, this is the latest mall to open its doors in Panama City. Complete with upscale stores, cinemas, more than 30 eating options and a supermarket, it is a popular meeting place. Among its services it offers are 24 hour security, paramedic assistance, a lost and found office, wheelchair service, valet parking, free Wi-Fi, information center and a customer help line 202-7777

Metromall

This mall is located on the outskirts of Panama City and is closest to Tocumen International Airport from where it offers a shuttle bus for passengers in transit who can take advantage of a few hours stopover in Panama to shop. It has a hotel, 300 shops, four department stores, one supermarket, ten movie theaters, more than 40 food establishments and 300 parking spaces. Metro-mall. Has a good selection of clothes, jewelry, accessories, shoes, electronic goods and furniture. The prices are affordable and tourists can obtain a discount card called "Panama Shopping Card".



Metromall.

Centro Comercial Los Pueblos

Unlike the traditional malls, Los Pueblos is a strip mall which covers 22 hectares. This is one of the most

El Dorado

This was the first mall ever to open in Panama. At first a strip

mall, it has been remodeled various times and in recent years has gone under cover like the conventional malls. It has a good variety of small stores, a Gran Morrison department store, supermarket, cinemas and a bowling alley.

Malls in the Interior

The trend towards mall shopping has now spread to the interior of the country, mainly in the form of strip malls. It is particularly notable in the Pacific beach area of Panama, in David the capital of Chiriqui province and in the smaller towns of Chitre Penonome and Santiago where many of Panama's biggest stores have opened branches.

Westland Mall, Arraijan, West Panama

This is a covered mall, located only 20 minutes away from Panama City with more than 100 shops, one food court, wide passageways on two levels and is one of the biggest in Central America. The commercial center is not fully occupied yet and has space for 200 more shops. Currently it has a food court, ten cinema theaters, one supermarket, an ample parking lot and 24 hour security.

Paseo Central, Chitre, Herrera province

This is a covered mall, built in 2010 at a cost of \$70 million, has 80,000 m² of construction, enough to accommodate 76 stores. It has five floors, two of which are for parking. This shopping mall has quickly become an important part of the community with events regularly taking place there. Currently it has one supermarket, one department store, a pharmacy, restaurants and boutiques. Car Wars, a family fun franchise, has opened its first branch in this mall.

Santiago Mall, Santiago, Veraguas province

Santiago, capital of Veraguas province has a mall with a total construction area of 80,000 m² which houses shops, banks, restaurants and an entertainment area with cinema theaters, a children's area, games rooms and ample meeting places.

The design also includes local bus stops, parking for 1,250 cars, a local and interprovincial bus terminal. The food court with more than 500 seats has a varied offer of food, drinks and desserts.

Chiriquí Mall, David, Chiriqui province

This one-story covered mall opened on May 17, 2003. It has 60 shops and parking for 700 cars. The management company is trying to attract a department store.

Plaza del Mar

Plaza del Mar will be the new strip mall close to the Pacific beaches and the Scarlett Martinez Airport at Rio Hato in Coclé province. It is located near the Panamerican Highway and will have 43 shops and parking for 440 cars.

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