

tyrabanks
I'm always ready for a selfie, @hardwick! I'm not sure about the judges though, especially Simon!
#AGT



SUFFERING FROM MALL FATIGUE

The story of abandoning my only source of cardio - but don't worry, I'm still shopping!



Sonu Bohra

A stylist, fashion blogger and writer making everyday fashion fun, accessible and achievable
www.fashion-bombay.com

There used to be a sense of utmost relaxation that was almost therapeutic when I went to the mall almost bi-weekly with my fellow shopaholic bestie. I spent most of my Fridays with the girls enjoying a long day of shopping - interspersed with a heavy lunch and ending the day with something more exciting as a reward for a glorious haul in the sales.

But that was more than two years ago; now my cardio is mostly typing my order and straining my vision zooming in to see those finer details on websites. So here's why I quit the malls:

COMPETITIVE PRICES:

Malls have been on the wane for years, as shoppers turn to e-commerce (which is easier) and outlets (which are cheaper). So many of these websites and gadget applications have special offers and discounts for signing up to their newsletters, first time shopping promotions or early bird offers.
Quick tip: Browse through a few websites before you purchase that handbag you've been eyeing and also go through their apps for competitive prices.

CONVENIENT & CUSTOMISED



The idea of being able to choose from a niche boutique conveniently located a few clicks (though many miles) away from me with a special touch and exclusive "just-for-me" products has certainly helped me curb my mall addiction. These customised outfits and accessories take on more meaning in a small city like Muscat, where you always run the risk of bumping into someone in that same dress from Zara.

Quick tip: Instead of shopping the same old brands online look for new bespoke boutiques who will create something just for you instead of a mass product.



SENSORY OVERLOAD

Salesgirls bombarding you with multiple products, serpentine lines for paying for your purchase and, let's not forget, the struggle to find parking in the mall. The sensory overload of people all around the mall is intimidating and frustrating - the sheer volume of people around you, the noise and smells and queues everywhere. Especially during sales! I may be a patient person, but even I balk at waiting 30 minutes in crowded stores for a dressing room, then another 30 minutes in line to pay - all to buy one skirt!

Quick tip: Online sales getting you a little overheated and turning your head with the sheer number of options? Relax with a nice cold drink or a mug of green tea while you browse.

TIS' THE FUTURE

It was a Golden Age of shopping, which lasted until a new Golden Age came along, courtesy of the Internet. Besides that, hanging out on social media is beginning to replace hanging out in shopping malls for many teenagers.

Quick tip: Get used to this before your neighbourhood malls shuts down! So, I save money, time and effort while shopping! And what about ending the day with my bestie, you ask? We still catch up every week - it's just that this time our focus is on discussing what we bought online.



MORE OPTIONS:

I've reached my saturation point with the fast fashion available in my neighbourhood mall. As a new-age shopper I have every retail store in the world just a key-tap away. So many of these websites source some of the most niche brands and deliver them to a remote town. Why, then, would anyone spend the time and money to

travel to, and shop through, the malls? Besides, I've quite understood fabrics and fits simply by looking at the models and zooming in for more details, so I'm not so hung up on the tactile feel of the product.

Quick tip: If the website offers a video version of the product, make sure you check it out. It'll help you gauge the fluidity and silhouette of the garment.

Yves Saint Laurent opens new museum in Marrakech

In October 2017, two museums will open dedicated to the work of Yves Saint Laurent. The first will be housed in the historical couture house at 5 avenue Marceau, a hôtel particulier from the Second Empire where the French designer worked for almost 30 years and which is now being revisited by stage designer Nathalie Crinière and interior designer Jacques Grange.

The other museum is being erected in another city close to Saint Laurent's heart - Marrakech. The designer and his lifetime partner, Pierre Bergé, discovered the Moroccan city in 1966, and on the flight back from their first trip there, they already had the paperwork for a house they wanted to buy. They went back regularly, and it was in Marrakech that Saint Laurent imagined his collections. Having moved to a new house very close to Jardin Majorelle, a garden of exotic plants and rare species created in the 1930s by French

The Musée Yves Saint Laurent in Marrakech (Bloomberg)



Yves Saint Laurent in his Paris studio, 1986

Orientalist painter Jacques Majorelle, Saint Laurent and Bergé pounced when they heard

that the now-public treasure would soon be demolished. To save it, they decided to buy it.

Over the years, the garden flourished under their watch, and they developed a museum to the Berber culture on the site. The complex already receives almost 700,000 visitors a year. The new museum, on the aptly named Rue Yves Saint Laurent, is not within the garden but quite close, on the same block, and was financed using the entrance fees of the garden.

Designed by the French architecture firm Studio KO, founded by Olivier Marty and Karl Fournier, it is built of terra cotta, concrete, and an earthen-coloured terrazzo with pieces of Moroccan stone, perfectly fitting in with the surroundings. "Their clean, uncluttered style recalls Saint Laurent's work," Bergé said of Studio KO. Spanning more than 13,000sq ft, the museum will feature a temporary exhibition space, an auditorium, a bookshop, a café-restaurant with a terrace, and a research library. Bloomberg

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