

Shops and recreation



Time Out staffers traipse through Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai, and came up with a list of some of their favourite shops.

Mumbai

The Hab by Usha

Along the line of stores on Linking Road in Bandra, The Hab by Usha stands out because of its colourful and somewhat surreal display. With humongous jars of wool and walls that are stacked with ribbons, beads and other sewing accessories, the shop makes for an intriguing and welcoming sight. This mega-stop offers a wide variety of sewing machines, sequins, stones, buttons, chords, felt, wool, paper patterns, needles, borders, lace, ribbons and do-it-yourself kits, among others. There is always someone there to help you with your sewing needs. And it's often a student of fashion design who offers a more engaging experience. The outlet also hosts a number of workshops throughout the year. From knitting and crafts to apparel sewing, these events appeal to both the young and the old. With changing times, Usha has taken a positive step forward by creating The Hab, a platform where art, creativity and design meet, and in this way shedding their old image of selling sewing machines in order to make it more appealing to the younger generations. Prices start from ₹2. G-1, 444 Corporate Lounge.



Hanging around Earrings at Silver Street

Opposite Sahib Khatawara Darbar, Road No 7, Khar-Bandra Linking Road, Near Citibank, Khar (W) (6127-4444). Fri-Wed 11am-8pm, closed on Thursdays. All major cards. Visit thehab.in.

Le Mill

In 2011, the city's fashion fanatics doffed their stylish (and imaginary) hats when three French women, Cecilia Morelli Parikh, Julie Leymarie

and Aurélie de Limelette opened Le Mill. We fell in love with some of the new luxury goods on sale that included Isabel Marant fringe boots, Mawi's Pantherhead pendant, the coveted PS1 satchel by Proenza Schouler, the printed shirt dress by Mary Katrantzou, men's shirts from Péro by Aneeth Arora and Alexander Wang bags. But we couldn't help feel a sense of déjà vu when we spotted Eddie Borgo's padlock bracelet and

the Mumba Devi necklace by Shourouk at the new store in Breach Candy (they've been available at Le Mill's flagship store in Masjid Bunder since 2011).

On the lower-end of the price scale, you will find a set of six napkins for ₹1,000 and luxury candles from Belgium for ₹3,200, gifts that Parikh points out you won't find anywhere else in the city. Home accessories as varied as a melted wax candle holder,



On the rack The interiors of Le Mill

11am-8pm. All major cards. Visit lemillindia.com.

Kulture Shop

Bandra's recently opened Kulture Shop invites no ordinary experience. It's a shop, art gallery, collaborative platform, design studio and defiantly sub-cultural entity, all rolled into one. Look around and you'll see framed art prints and T-shirts by a group of 20 artists including Sameer Kulavoor and Lokesh Karekar as well as emerging ones like Hari Panicker and Karan Singh. The artists are categorised under four limited-edition labels namely, Showcase for the more prominent artists; Select for the new wave; Labs for the in-house artists working on custom projects; and the soon-to-be-launched Presents for the more established gallery folk.

But don't think for a second that the artists have it easy—it requires a great deal of effort to make it to the Kulture Shop's roster. "The work needs to be refined, stylistically evolved but also has to have conceptual thought," said creative director and co-founder Kunal Anand who spent months cherry picking the current lot. "They should have a distinct viewpoint as opposed to display[ing] something abstract." Each month the artists are given broad themes to inform their work, which has so far included

"Urban Playground", "Living in Colour" and "The Times" (tradition vs modern). "The kind of work we represent is very cultural in nature. Since graphic design is very much a product of culture and vice versa," added founder and managing director Arjun Charanjiva, "we look at pop culture from a sub-cultural perspective." T-shirt prices start from ₹1,400 and prints from ₹2,000.

Hill View 2, Second floor, 241 Hill Road, Bandra (2655-0982). Daily noon-7pm. All major cards. Visit kultureshop.in.

Mohan Metal Mart

If Monica Geller from the popular sitcom *Friends* lived in Mumbai, this is the place you'd find her stocking up for her many guests. Mohan Metal Mart that turned a hundred years old last year, is the one-stop shop for all your household appliances. A small store in the bustling Nana Chowk area, it not only sells goods, but deals in exchange and repair work as well. In a glass display on one side of the shop, there's a poster of Amitabh Bachchan in an advertisement of the Just Dial service that's given the store a four-star rating, something the owners are particularly proud of.

Regular cookers, pots and pans, as well as decorative showpieces fill up the rest of the display shelves. A part of the floor

space is full of brass and silver idols of various Gods like Ganesha and Saraswati. Their kitchenware ranges from cutting boards, jugs, kitchen knives in varied sizes, and even idli-moulds. Knick-knacks like salt and pepper shakers, marble mortar and pestle sets, and graters that double up as cutlery holders are other interesting items as well. The store also has showpieces and figurines in porcelain and glass, to embellish other rooms of your house. Prices start from ₹5. Taj Building, Shop No 5, August Kranti Marg, Gowalia Tank (2386-4796). Mon-Sat 9am-8pm. All major cards.*

Silver Streak

For a decade now, this little Bandra gem has been the go-to place for silver jewellery in the city. Procured from across the world, but especially from Jaipur and Kolkata, Silver Streak has a varied collection of earrings, rings, bangles and the like. The range of products also includes gold-plated articles as well as precious and semi-precious stones set in silver. Owing to its popularity, a second branch located a few lanes away (just off Turner road in Bandra) became functional about five years ago.

Proprietor Vishal Chhabria attributed the goodwill and loyalty to good service. "Customers feel at ease here", is how he best described the unhurried and friendly ambience of his shop where you can browse through the bling at your own pace. Regular customers like Yasmin Poncha, originally a Delhi resident and "a big silver junkie" swears by Silver Streak, reminiscing on how she was first surprised to find a "Delhi-like" shop here in Mumbai. An affordable price range draws customers from different parts of the city and beyond. "There's definitely been a shift towards buying more silver jewellery in the past six to seven years", added Chhabria while elaborating on the economics of selling silver. So the next time you feel like shedding all that gold for something cooler, you know where to head. Prices start from ₹400.

Shop No 4, Joana Building, Manuel Gonsalves Road, Next to St Joseph's Convent, Bandra (W) (2648-4503). Mon-Sat 11am-8pm. All major cards.



A stitch in time The walls of The Hub

a magnifying glass shaped like a broken pair of spectacles from the avant-garde Belgian designer, Maison Martin Margiela. Also on sale are the lavishly produced coffee-table books by French journalist François Baudot. So, until we save up enough for a Peter Pilotto dress at Le Mill (and we aren't holding our breath for that) we are glad we won't have to sit through truck-filled traffic to shop for luxurious goods. Prices start at ₹1,000.

2 Meherabad Apartments, Near St Stephen's Church, Warden Road, Breach Candy (2368-4462). Mon-Sat 11am-8pm. All major cards.

17-25 Nandlal Jari Road, Off PD'Melo Road, Wadi Bunder (E) (2368-4461). Mon-Sat