

Shopping

St Albans is rich in heritage and tradition, evidence of which can be found down every street and arcade where traders have plied their wares for many a century. Stop awhile and look up at medieval craftsmanship evident in windows, doorways and timber-framed buildings. Blending into the historic are shopping centres, The Maltings and Christopher Place, both served by their own car parks and offering a range of retail goods.

A visit to St Albans for shopping is a unique and varied experience, a contrast to indoor shopping malls. The city's historic ambience provides a delightful setting in which to explore a wide range of top name and independent shops.

The bustling city centre market on Wednesdays and Saturdays is one of the largest in the south east of England, with over 170 stalls. Established over 1,000 years ago, the colourful street market extends through the heart of St Albans, offering an enormous variety of wares from foodstuffs, flowers, gifts, clothes and souvenirs to crafts and more unusual items. Don't miss the Farmers' Market on the second Sunday of the month and the regular continental markets, which offer goods and produce from various European countries.

The Cathedral Quarter, in the streets and lanes clustered around the Cathedral, offers an amazing variety of specialist shops housed in historic buildings along picturesque streets. In this area of the city you will find shops offering antiques, books, designer clothes, furniture, giftware, jewellery, interior design and much more!

The main street, St Peter's Street, is home to many well-known names, as are the City's two traffic-free shopping centres. The Maltings is a tree-lined mall, housing over 50 shops as well as the Maltings Arts Theatre and Public Library, whilst Christopher Place is home to shops located around a central courtyard. Throughout the year a programme of events and activities takes place within the city centre, giving more reason not to miss the unique experience of shopping within St Albans.

St Albans Shopmobility

Visitors with walking difficulties can take advantage of the free Shopmobility scheme, providing electric and manual wheelchairs and battery-powered scooters. Shopmobility is conveniently located behind BHS in the Drover's Way car park and open 0930 to 1700 hrs on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. Telephone: 01727 819339 for further details.

A quick guide to the main shopping areas in St Albans:

- Catherine Street.....craft & specialist shops
- Christopher Place....modern shopping centre
.....chain stores and specialist shops
- George Streetantique, craft and specialist shops
- Heritage Close /
- Village Arcadespecialist shops
- High Streetspecialist shops
- Holywell Hillantique, craft & specialist shops
- Maltingsmodern shopping centre -
.....chain stores and specialist shops
- Market Place /
- Chequer Streetchain stores and specialist shops
- St Peter's Streetlarger stores (e.g. BHS, Boots,
.....M&S & Woolworths)

Trading days: Monday – Sunday*
Market Days – Wednesday & Saturday
(The Farmers' Market takes place every second Sunday of the month).

*The majority of shops are open on Sunday

Pictures from left: Christopher Place, St Albans Market and The Maltings



Historic Ambience