

Stylish Traveler

RETAIL THERAPY GOES RETRO

In Asia, secondhand once meant second-rate, but today more people are discovering the allure of vintage cool. Here's the lowdown on where to find the best pre-loved threads, furniture, books and more in three ultra-fashionable cities. *By* HELEN DALLEY



A step up at SatisFactory in Hong Kong.



Old School Clockwise from top left: SatisFactory is the place when in need of something to wear for a day at the races; Vintage HK is home to a variety of vintage clothing and jewelry; rows of bulging bookshelves at Flow Organic Bookshop.

HONG KONG

IF YOU THINK SHOPPING IN HONG KONG IS ALL ABOUT flagship designer stores and multimillion-dollar malls, think again. The city also plays host to a burgeoning vintage scene, complementing the old Chinese memorabilia found in the night-market stalwarts like **Temple Street** and **Tung Choi Street** (aka Ladies' Market).

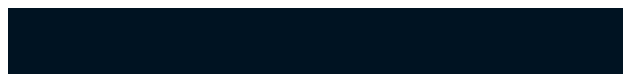
For a taste of the retro action, head to **Bang Bang! 70s** (1st floor, 16A Aberdeen St., Central; 852/9045-8006). Newly relocated from its Tsim Sha Tsui space, this diminutive shrine to the disco decade offers authentic vintage clothes and accessories, plus a pair of friendly resident cats; look out for oversize flight bags, E-label Levi's and retro-kitsch Mickey Mouse wristwatches.

Another pit stop for pre-loved clothing and jewelry is **Vintage HK** (Ground floor, 57–59 Hollywood Rd., Central; 852/2545-9932), run by a local design collective; top finds include chunky red ceramic rings and 1950's-style dresses.

Looking for something more fancy? Step it up at **SatisFactory** (2nd Floor, Poo Foo Bldg., 1 Foo Ming St., Causeway

Bay; 852/9783-5141), the perfect place to find a hat for the races, say, or even a vintage wedding dress with accessories to match. Even higher up the scale—but without the lofty price tags—is **Chew** (6th floor, 1 Lan Kwai Fong; 852/2810-0188), a relative newcomer. Owned by Ho Chiu Wan, daughter of casino billionaire Stanley Ho, the chandelier-adorned store hangs high-fashion pieces by Stella McCartney and Dolce & Gabbana with up to a 90 percent discount.

Moving beyond pure aesthetics, planet-conscious readers can enrich their minds at **Flow Organic Bookshop**, a plentifully stocked secondhand bookstore that's chock-a-block with well-thumbed, affordable fiction (40 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central; 852/8104-0822). Finally, music buffs who prefer old-school record players to the latest iPod will drool over the vinyl at **Walls of Sound** (3rd floor, 38 Cochrane St., Central; 852/2805-1584), which specializes in jazz, rock and classical-music records. »





SINGAPORE

LONG A GO-TO DESTINATION FOR VINTAGE HUNTERS, Singapore boasts flea markets such as **Zouk Flea & Easy** (17 Jiak Kim St.; zoukclub.com; four Sundays a year) specializing in hip clothing and the **Sungei Road Thieves Market** (Sungei Rd.; 11 A.M.–7 P.M. daily) selling everything from mobile phones to furniture.

If you're not a market person, don't despair. The city-state has plenty of vintage clothing and homeware boutiques, especially on indie-cool Haji Lane. Male shoppers shouldn't miss **White Room** (37 Haji Lane; 65/6297-1280; atwhiteroom.com), where the vintage sunglasses, including classic Ray-Bans and angular aviators by Raf Simons and Linda Farrow, are bound to unleash their inner superstar. Meantime, ladies will love **Dulcetfig** (41 Haji Lane; 65/6396-5648; dulcetfig.com) for its printed dresses, wicker handbags and vintage jewelry from Sarah Coventry.

For even more retro accessorizing, enter the world of **Dustbunny Vintage** (Block 112, 01–203 Bukit Purmei Rd.; 65/6274-4200; dustbunnyvintage.com). Emblazoned with striking geometric patterns, their Mod purses are the ideal finishing touch to a mini-dress, while the elegant, glass-bead evening bags go perfectly with twinsets and pearls.

Ready to deck out your home? Give it a vintage flavor courtesy of **Like That One** (Skytech 09–04, 2 Bukit Batok St.; 65/9023-2988; likethatone.com); we loved the laminate-and-chrome dining tables and funky accessories, especially the brightly painted candelabras. Or keep sounds retro with **Vinylucky** (Unit B1-42; The Adelphi, 1 Coleman St. 24; 65/6336-9071; vinylucky.blogspot.com), where you can give records a spin on one of three in-house turntables.

Another gem is homeware store **Lorgan's** (100E Pasir Panjang Rd.; 65/6272-4988; lorgans.com), founded by former teak-furniture dealer Lorgan Wong. Come here for colorful pieces, mostly from the 1960's and 1970's; if you're lucky, you might find Eero Aarnio's iconic Bubble Chair or even a 1950's Crossley radio.



Retro Style Clockwise from top left: Racks of printed dresses at Dulcetfig; outside Dustbunny Vintage; off the rack at Dulcetfig; browsing at Like That One; the colorful selection at Lorgan's.



BANGKOK

MARKET-SATURATED BANGKOK IS A VINTAGE lover's Valhalla. Start out at the bazaar to beat all others, **Chatuchak Weekend Market** (Mo Chit Skytrain station or Chatuchak MRT station; weekends only, 9 A.M.–6 P.M.) for items like vintage denim, secondhand books and decorative homeware. Other markets worth a trip include **Ratchada Night Bazaar** (Corner of Ratchada and Lad Phrao Rd.; Saturdays only, 5 P.M.–midnight) for vintage clothing, vinyl and antique toys, **Woeng Nakhon Kasem**, or **Thieves Market** (Charoen Krung Rd.; open daily) for Thai and Chinese antiques, and **Talaat Wang Lang** (Wang Lang, near Siraraj Pier; open daily) for clothing and accessories.

Plenty of standalone stores also specialize in vintage gear. This June, Masiri Tamsakul—a director at hip furniture brand Quattro—opened **Again & Again** (Room B1a, Market Place, Soi 4, Sukhumvit Soi 55 [Thonglor]; 66-8/9486-5359), a boutique selling vintage pieces the designer has sourced from around the world. This new entry lines up agreeably against other vintage fixtures in the city like **It's Happened to Be a Closet** (266/3 Siam Square, Soi 3, Rama 1 Rd.; 66-2/658-4969;

itshappenedtobeacloset.wordpress.com), where fringed cocktail dresses, brightly colored heels and cute crochet bed covers will all pull at your purse strings. Or, if you'd rather browse book spines than wardrobe items, **Dasa Books** (714/4 Sukhumvit Rd.; 66-2/661-2993; dasabookcafe.com) has a great selection of secondhand tomes.

For a retro furniture and household-goods fix, go to **Tuba** (34 Soi 21, Sukhumvit Soi 63 [Ekamai]; 66-2/622-0708; design-at-home.com), which sells 70's carpets and 60's sofas by day and turns into a trendy bar come nightfall. Its neighbor, **Y50** (24 Soi 21, Sukhumvit Soi 63 [Ekamai]; 66-2/711-5629), also doubles as a bar; test out funky chairs and Art Deco lamps over a few drinks while rubbing elbows with Bangkok's film-industry movers and shakers. Still hungry for more? Head to **Le Café Siam** (4 Soi Sri Aksorn, Chua Ploeng Rd.; 66-2/671-0030; lecafesiam.com), a restaurant set in a grand old colonial building, where many of the antiques and artworks are for sale. ✦



Bounty Hunting Clockwise from top right: A table awaits at Le Café Siam; Again & Again sources its stock from around the globe; a pair of shoes at It's Happened to Be a Closet; the shop's eclectic interior mirrors the goods on sale.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF DULCETFIG; COURTESY OF DUSTBUNNY; COURTESY OF LIKE THAT ONE; COURTESY OF LORGAN'S

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF LE SIAM CAFE; COURTESY OF AGAIN & AGAIN; LARA DAY (2)