

Living, Etc.

7 Hotels for a Stylish Shopping Break

By Alex Gorton
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Book into a plush room in a hip hotel and turn this year's shopping break into a glamorous long weekend away. From a luxurious Indian hideaway to a chic New York bolt hole, we've tracked down seven fabulous places perfectly positioned for the ultimate shopping spree.

#2 NINE ZERO HOTEL, Boston

WHY? Because Boston is the new New York. Just a hop, skip and a seven-hour flight from the UK, Nine Zero is one of those hip boutique hotels that would, if it were Manhattan-based, have played a starring role in *Sex And The City*. Hardly surprising, then, that Sarah Jessica Parker stays here when she comes to town.

WHERE? In the Ladder District, where you're perfectly located for a weekend of shopping bliss. With its red-brick buildings and big, wide streets, Boston is one of the most walkable cities in America. The shops are open late and, of course, there's no sales tax on clothes, which means more must-haves for your wardrobe.

STAYING IN Save up your dollars and book into penthouse suite Cloud Nine for a James Bond-esque experience. This is the first hotel in the world to ditch keys in favour of a high-tech Iris recognition system—you get into the suite via an eye scan. The other bedrooms are just as cool, with huge 007-style beds (think leather headboards), muted lighting and marble bathrooms crammed with Mario Russo products.

GOING OUT Head to Newbury Street for big-name brands like Armani and Kate Spade, and Charles Street in Beacon Hill for antiques and quirky interiors boutiques. Cross the river to Cambridge, home of Harvard University, where you can browse the boutiques of Inman Square.

MUST BRING BACK Ceramic wall hooks or a beautiful lamp shade from Anthropologie (799 Boylston Street), a must-visit fashion and interiors store. You can also buy all the furniture and fixtures seen in the hotel through its website—classier than pocketing the free soap...

MORE INFO From 199 British pounds per room per night. To book, call 001 617 772-5800 or visit www.ninezero.com.