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CHICAGO'S GREAT OUTDOORS



ICE CREAM
DREAMS

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GIFT GUIDE

Shop the City

Check off your shopping list with fabulous gifts from Chicago's top shopping spots.

» VALE CRAFT GALLERY

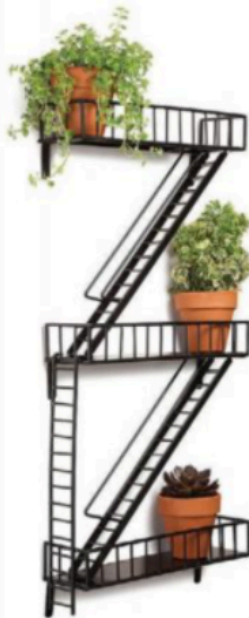
Located in the River North gallery district, Vale Craft Gallery exhibits and sells contemporary American fine craft including colorful textiles, beautiful glass objects, innovative ceramics, whimsical sculpture, and unique jewelry. Celebrating its 22nd anniversary, the gallery is currently showcasing the work of over 100 local and national artists. Image: Dance of the Kelpies Earrings by Bijou Graphique.

230 West Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60654
312-337-3525; www.valecraftgallery.com



» PISTACHIOS

This German made go everywhere bracelet is made of 80 strands of steel cables with sterling silver "pods", giving it a full, wide body look-but leaving a soft and light feel. Magnetic clasp makes it easy to put it on and off. Located at Shops at Northbridge, ground level on Grand Avenue between Rush and Wabash. Open Daily. 55 East Grand Avenue, Chicago; 312-595-9437 pistachiosonline.com.



» FIRE ESCAPE SHELVES

Made of hand-welded steel, this sturdy city-inspired accessory will provide a safe spot for candles, potted plants or other items you wish to display. Hang several shelves for an even more dramatic effect. Chicago Architecture Foundation. 224 S. Michigan Ave. architecture.org 312-922-3432

bars from around the world to made-to-order Bliss Bites, a spoonful of nuts, fruit, salty or sweet ingredients with melted chocolate designed to be enjoyed on the spot. Bring home a bite of Chicago with classic turtles and s'mores created just for Cocoa + Co. by Veruca Chocolates. Say yes to instant gratification. Open M-Sa 7 am-7 pm; Su 8 am-5 pm. www.cocoaandco.com. 1651 N. Wells St., 312.624.8549. Bus: 156 to Eugenie

DYLAN'S CANDY BAR—Daughter of fashion designer Ralph Lauren, Dylan Lauren has style in her veins. She channels it into this namesake candy emporium. First opened in New York City, Chicago's sweet-treat heaven includes endless confections, including chocolate bars galore, several bag-your-own sections, a fudge counter (tastes are free), nostalgic candies, candy-themed merchandise like pajamas, sunglasses, pillows and earrings, an ice cream bar, a full-on cafe with grown-up candy-inspired cocktails, and a 3D gummy printer. M-Th 11 am-8 pm; F, Sa 10 am-10 pm; Su 10 am-7 pm. www.dylanscandybar.com. 445 N. Michigan Ave., 312.702.2247. El: Red to Grand

EZRA'S—Just because the city has put its Prohibition days behind it, it doesn't mean we don't still love a good small-batch liquor to unwind with. Enter Ezra's for your craft spirit needs. Browse an extensive, international collection of liquor from Old Forester 1870 to 18-year-old scotch—all in packaging you'll want to keep on display. www.ezras.com. Open T-Th 1 pm-8 pm; F 1 pm-9 pm; Sa noon-9 pm; Su noon-5 pm. 1128 W. Armitage Ave., 773.883.8711. El: Brown, Purple to Armitage

FOURSIDED—The perfect place when you're stumped for a gift, this Andersonville shop stocks small-press greeting cards with a handmade feel, unique wrapping papers, candles, notebooks, picture frames, vintage prints and more. foursidedonline.blogspot.com. Open M-F 11 am-7 pm; Sa 10 am-6 pm; Su 11 am-6 pm. 5061 N. Clark St., 773.506.8300. El: Red to Berwyn

GHIRARDELLI CHOCOLATE—The famous chocolate company's retail shop is the perfect place to indulge in decadent ice cream concoctions, hot chocolate or milkshakes. A wide variety of chocolate and confection gift items are also available. Open M-Th 10 am-10:30 pm; F 10 am-11:30 pm; Su 10 am-10 pm. www.ghirardelli.com. 830 N. Michigan Ave. #1, 312.337.9330. El: Red to Chicago; Open Su-Th 10 am-10 pm; F, Sa 10 am-11 pm. 400 N. Michigan Ave., 312.923.0168. El: Red to Grand

MADISON HALL—The 1890-built Chicago Athletic Association has been reimagined as a chic hotel with a heritage. Matching the vibe is lifestyle boutique Madison Hall, which channels a 1930s drugstore with trendy touches. Open M-Sa 10 am-7 pm; Su 11 am-5 pm. www.madisonhallchicago.com. 71 E. Madison St., 312.683.9586. El: Red to Monroe

PISTACHIOS—This contemporary jewelry and craft gallery boasts more than 100 international artists and has been a destination for jewelry and craft lovers for over 20 years. Featuring a wide collection of hand-crafted jewelry, it also carries hand-blown glasswares, colorful scarves and contemporary watches. Located at The Shops at North Bridge on Michigan Avenue. Open M-F 10:30 am-7 pm; Sa 10:30 am-6 pm; Su noon-5 pm. www.pistachiosonline.com. Open M-F 10:30 am-7 pm; Sa 10:30 am-6 pm; Su noon-5 pm. 55 E. Grand Ave., 312.595.9437. El: Red to Grand

THE GUIDE

READ IT & EAT—Books? Food? We're there. In addition to a wide variety of food and drink books, Read It & Eat also carries travel, biographies, essays and history. And did we mention there's a test kitchen? Recipes from the pages come to life with author demonstrations, signings, tastings and cooking classes to feed your belly and your mind. www.readitandeatstore.com. Open Su-Th 11 am-6 pm; F-Sa 11 am-7 pm. 2142 N. Halsted St., 773.661.6158. El: Brown, Purple to Armitage

RIDER FOR LIFE—Normally, we wouldn't expect to find organic cotton candy sold next to handmade soaps amidst women's clothing and vintage sofas. But at super-hip West Loop shop Rider For Life, nothing is really normal, and that's a good thing. Owned by Lauren McGrady and partner Tom Gavin, friends who met at Columbia College, Rider is a kind of retail expression of their love of traveling, or "riding" through life. Open M-Sa 10 am-8 pm; Su 10 am-6 pm. www.shoprider.us. 1115 W. Lake St., 312.243.0464. El: Green/Pink to Morgan

ROSCOEBOOKS—In this day and age, it's rare to find a brick-and-mortar bookstore—and even more rare to successfully open one. RoscoeBooks has now become a neighborhood staple in Roscoe Village, providing literature lovers with everything from nonfiction to young adult novels, along with a range of local home goods. Stop by Tuesday and Saturday mornings for story time. www.roscoebooks.com. Open M-Th 10 am-7 pm; F-Sa 10 am-9 pm; Su 11 am-7 pm. 2142 W. Roscoe St., 773.857.2676. El: Brown to Paulina

SHUGA RECORDS—With a massive selection of both new and used records, CDs, cassettes and other recordings, Shuga Records is a must-visit for music lovers of all kinds. You can browse the 20,000 records here or look online and pick up in the store. Plus, find used turntables, vintage posters and audio equipment. Open daily 10 am-10 pm www.shugarecords.com. 1272 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773.278.4085. El: Blue to Division

STRANGE CARGO—At this shop three blocks south of Wrigley Field, you'll find Chicago's largest selection of vintage iron-on transfers, new and vintage clothing, and shoes (like Chuck Taylor All-Stars) from the 1960s to today, as well as bags, hats and gifts. www.strangecargo.com. Open M-Sa 11 am-6:45 pm; Su 11 am-5:30 pm. 3448 N. Clark St., 773.327.8090. El: Red to Addison

TABOO TABOU—Sexy lingerie, corsets, fantasy costumes, erotic toys and boudoir clothing and shoes are featured at this Lakeview boutique. A knowledgeable staff is on hand to help answer your questions. Open Su-Th noon-8 pm; F noon-9 pm; Sa 11 am-9 pm. www.tabootabou.com. 843 1/2 W. Belmont Ave., 773.883.1400. El: Red, Brown, Purple to Belmont

TIMBUK2—Get your fix of the San-Francisco made handbags, backpacks and accessories at this Bucktown shop. Don't miss the chance to design your own made-to-order goods at the creator's station in the shop. www.timbuk2.com. 1625 N. Damen Ave. 773.661.4433 El: Blue to Damen

YARNIFY!—Knitting enthusiasts will find a wide selection of yarn for every taste and budget at this South Loop boutique. Materials include wool, cotton, cashmere, fine silk, alpaca and more. Get expert help on any knitting project. www.yarnify.com. Open M, W-F 11 am-7 pm; Sa 10 am-6 pm; Su noon-5 pm. 47 W. Polk St., 312.583.YARN(9276). El: Red to Harrison

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