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## SHOP RENO FOR BARGAINS

- Connie Emerson

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There was a time when Reno residents went to San Francisco for everything except underwear and toothpaste. As the city has grown, however, its shopping opportunities have expanded to include stores with items you may not find anywhere else.

### Specialty shops

Customers from all over the world visit Reno Rails (1229 E. Fourth St.) when they're in town. The store, one of the largest O-gauge train stores in the country, also carries an extensive selection of engines, rolling stock and accessories in other sizes.

Stepping inside Art Dogs & Grace (218 Vassar St.) is akin to being transported to Berkeley's Telegraph Avenue in the '60s. The two-room space, formerly occupied by a purveyor of pet fish, is crammed with baubles, bangles and bumper stickers. Among the eclectic assortment are furniture, funky clothes and Southeast Asian imports.

Sundance Books (1155 W. Fourth St.), Reno's independent bookseller, carries what is perhaps the state's most extensive selection of contemporary books about Nevada. Whether you're interested in hiking the Tahoe Rim Trail or following dirt bike paths around Reno, taking daytrips to surrounding points of interest or learning about the area's history, you'll find the information you need.

Shops at the Nevada Art Museum (160 W. Liberty St.), Wilbur May Museum (San Rafael Park) and the National Automobile Collection (10 S. Lake St.) are treasure troves of unusual items, most of which are related to the respective museum's focus.

### Ethnic

Dragon Spring (1707 S. Wells Ave.) is the place to buy Chinese paper cuts, tiny satin brocade envelopes with snap closures and a host of other small items imported from China. It's also Reno's largest supplier of martial arts clothing, knives and equipment. The most fascinating merchandise, however, is the museum-quality Chinese antiques displayed in the store's cabinets and alcoves.

The cream of African handcrafts and clothing sold at Bantu Spirit (17 S. Virginia St., Suite 140)

includes hand-carved animals and chess sets in various materials, as well as a large selection of beaded necklaces, bracelets and other jewelry.

A-1 Appliances and Indian Grocery (2302 Oddie Blvd., Sparks) contains a wealth of ingredients for East Indian cuisine. Along with the many varieties of lentils, chick peas and other legumes are dozens of plastic bags containing spices. Among the other items for sale in this fascinating store: magazines and books printed in Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi; videos produced in India and Pakistan; and bindi (jeweled forehead decorations).

Charming paper napkins, traditional beer steins, greeting cards and dirndls share floor space at the Bavarian World delicatessen (595 Valley Road), with imported food products such as senf (German mustard), red cabbage and spaetzle. One of the largest retailers of German imports on the West Coast, it also carries extensive selections of German magazines, clothing and Christmas decorations.

During the past few years, a growing number of Latino businesses have opened on Wells Avenue south of Ryland. Among them, El Mundo Latino (1129 S. Wells Ave.) deals in Mexican-style Western wear. Across the street and down the block, another El Mundo Latino (1200 S. Wells Ave.) specializes in wedding gowns. The biggest food market, Mercadito Latino (1575 S. Wells Ave.), offers a wide variety of spice and herb packets, huge pinatas and food products such as Mexican vanilla and cocoa.

### Made in Nevada

Save some of your money for items created in Nevada. You'll find the most extensive selection of local foods at Napa Sonoma (294 E. Moana Lane). Davidson's teas, Country Cupboard's extensive array of products and Mrs. Auld's sweet and spicy pickles, brandied cherries and pancake mix are among the best sellers. Clear plastic packages display the ingredients in cookie mixes called Mix-Um-Ups, with tantalizing names such as Gold Strike (toffee pecan) and Alpine Surprise (macadamia nuts and chocolate chips). Napa Sonoma also carries Pahrump and Tahoe Ridge wines.

The city's largest concentrations of Nevada antiques and memorabilia dealers are on South Virginia Avenue in the 800, 1200 and 1300 blocks.

On the walls of the Artists Co-op of Reno (627 Mill St.), you'll find photographs by Jack Hursh, watercolors by Cheryl Bennett and Erik Holland, and works by Barbara Maclean for sale. You'll also be able to buy Nevada art at frequent sales held across the street from the post office on the plaza in front of the Riverside Artists Lofts (17 S. Virginia St.).

### Best buys

Patagonia (8550 White Fir St.), one of only four factory-second outlets in the United States, is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. Bins brim with discounted expedition-weight underwear, bathing suits, sports bras and shorts, while jackets and pants hang from rods, waiting for fishermen, kayakers, skiers, mountain climbers and others who like to stay warm and look cool. Sales are held on three-day holiday weekends.

Looking for a Jerry Garcia tie that costs less than \$9? The second floor at Gottschalks (Park Lane Mall, 200 E. Plumb Lane) is bargain heaven. Last season's clothing -- as well as odds and ends -- from all the chain's department stores end up here, marked down 50 to 80 percent.

Sportif, a manufacturer of men's and women's active wear, has its outlet store at 1415 Greg St. in Sparks. There you'll find rack after rack of pants, shirts, shorts and other sports clothing at 50 to 70 percent off retail prices. Though about half of the merchandise consists of seconds and samples, the rest is top quality. Even more savings are the rule during the April and October sales.

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