

## Shopping

This mall is called The Oracle. It opened in 1999 and it cost £250 million to build. It has 90 stores on three floors and covers over 80,000 square meters. Shoppers can browse their favorite labels, look for bargains, have a snack or a drink in one of its 22 restaurants, cafes, and bars or even watch a movie in its 10-screen movie theater.

With its glass roof and riverside location, The Oracle offers a 21st century shopping experience. It is an exciting and entertaining place where you can buy all of today's most fashionable brand names. But "malls" are not just a 21st century phenomenon.

The Burlington Arcade, which opened in 1819, was one of the world's first malls. Lord George Cavendish, the man who built the arcade, said it was "for the sale of jewelry and fancy articles." Today, shoppers can still buy luxurious and unique products, such as hand-made gold and silverware, precious materials, and even these golden slippers.

The arcade has been a part of London's history for almost 200 years and it is almost 200 meters long. You may want to save up before you visit because most things are very expensive. Even if you can't afford to buy anything, the arcade is a great place for just window shopping!

In the Burlington Arcade, you can find modern global brands, like Lulu Guinness and Jimmy Choo, as well as the older specialist stores like Penhaligon's and the jeweler's Heming of London.

The Burlington Arcade and The Oracle are two very different malls, but both are usually busy. Experts predict that this is going to change as shopping online becomes more popular, because people find it more convenient to shop from home, compare prices, and find the best discounts.

However, right now only about 10% of retail transactions take place online while 31% take place in malls. As long as places like The Burlington Arcade and The Oracle continue to offer convenience and choice, they will continue to be popular places to shop.

**Comprehension Check**

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**1 How much did it cost to build *The Oracle*?**

A) \$90 million

B) £250 million

C) 80,000 euros

**1 How much did it cost to build *The Oracle*?**

B) £250 million

**2 What does Heming of London sell?**

A) jewelry

B) souvenirs of London

C) luxury shoes

**2 What does Heming of London sell?**

A) jewelry

**3 Where do more people shop?**

A) online at home

B) in shopping malls

**3 Where do more people shop?**

A) online at home