



Travel Guides designed by insiders.

# THRIFT SHOPPING IN THE EAST END: THE BEST VINTAGE SHOPS AND MARKETS

Bagging a bargain in East London is easy once you know where to look



Mandy Hegarty  
Travel writer

# ABOUT US

## THE BUGGL TEAM.

We are a small team banded together to solve the major problems that exist around travel planning. We've lived in your shoes for years, trying to seek authentic and matched trip advice to no avail. Buggl was built as your vehicle to ride in every time you need inspiration about a place to go.

## OUR MISSION.

Our goal is to give people a better opportunity to experience delightful life moments when they travel. This only happens when people begin to trust in one another and not on reviews or ratings of places online anymore. Bringing the life back to travel means pulling local people out of the shadows of those review sites and onto a place where they share their expertise on what they love to do in their location. It's only possible to travel well by harnessing the relationship between travelers and locals.

Our aim is give everyone an equal chance to have beautiful trips.

## OUR STORY.

This isn't a company. If you unraveled our DNA it would read like a passport stamped with ink from all over the world. We've each had unique and memorable experiences traveling down the street or around the world that have changed us as individuals and humans. If you've traveled like us, you know it's possible to grow as a person when you travel right. If you haven't traveled like us, this platform will give you the ability to do so. It's time to TRUST in other people again to help navigate you through the world.



## ABOUT ME



## Mandy Hegarty

Travel writer

### Traveler Since

1987

### Age

26

### Interests and Activities

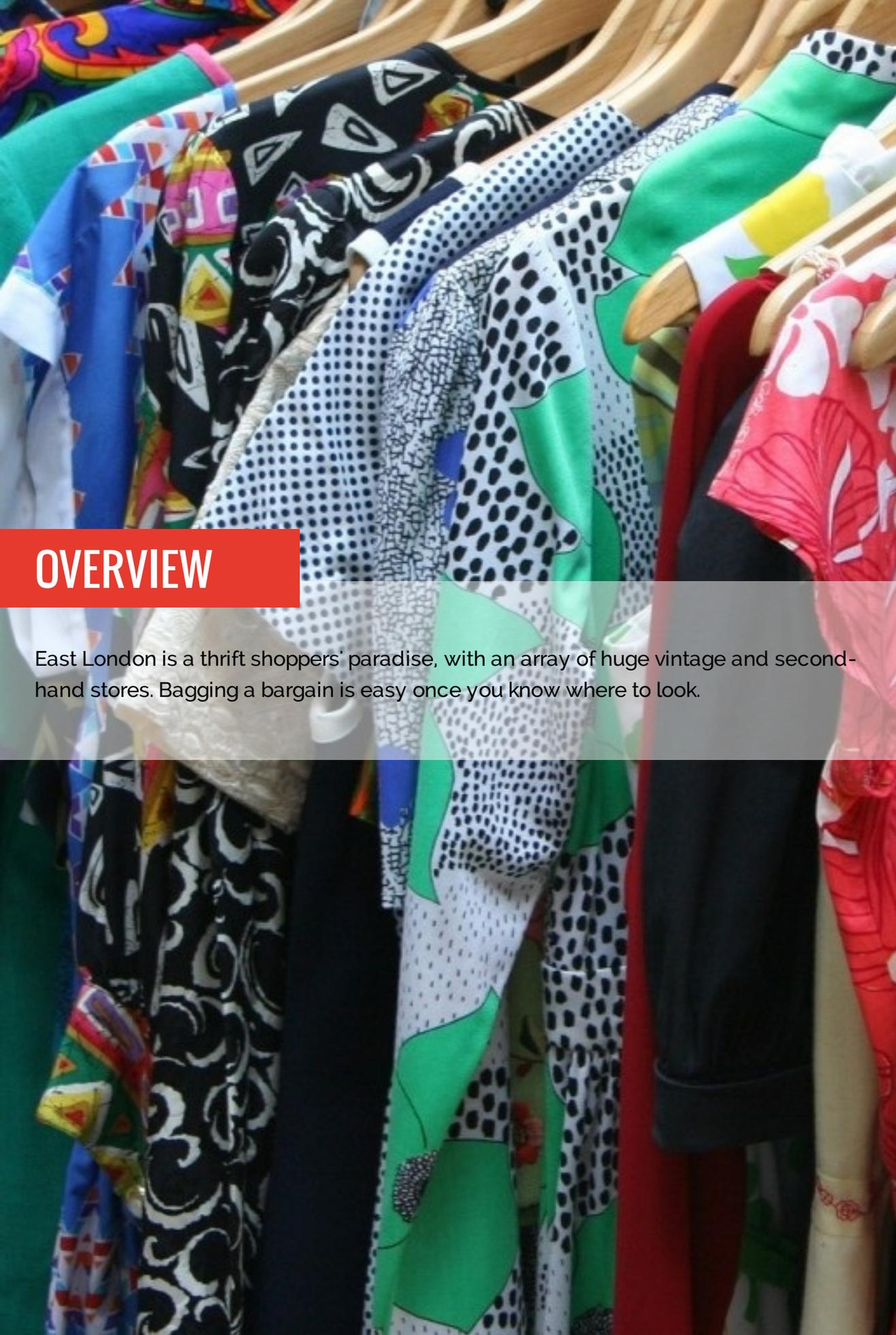
Travel writing, Film, Food, Drink

### WHO AM I?

Mandy Hegarty is a 20-something freelance writer who covers all things travel, food and film. Born and bred in Dublin, she has spent the last few years living and working in New York and London, where she is now based. She started south of the Thames before moving up to the East End, and works as a sub-editor for expert travel writing service World Words ([www.world-words.com](http://www.world-words.com)). Some of her favorite things include good coffee, cheese, gothic literature, Christmas, markets and cinemas.

### WHAT I KNOW ABOUT TRAVEL?

Travel has always been a strong passion of mine. I've lived in Ireland, the UK, the US and Canada, and have traveled extensively around Europe and Latin America.



## OVERVIEW

East London is a thrift shoppers' paradise, with an array of huge vintage and second-hand stores. Bagging a bargain is easy once you know where to look.

# LOCAL PERKS AND KNOWLEDGE

London is one of the world's leading fashion capitals, but retailers in Knightsbridge, Mayfair and even Oxford Street tend to cater to big spenders. So where does one go to get their fashion fix at a reasonable price? My advice is to head to East London, where the rails are packed tight with pre-loved garments and designer goods from decades past. Trawling through piles of second-hand clothing isn't everyone's cup of tea, but if you're up for the challenge, you're bound to find a bargain in one of these vintage shops.



**LOCAL SECRETS**

# THE EAST END THRIFT STORE

## East End Thrift Store



### Offbeat Secret

15 Assembly Passage, London E1 4EY, UK 020 7423 9700

With fill-a-bag bargain shopping and a warehouse full of pre-loved goods, you might think this store is best left to the end of the day when you're down to last few pounds of your budget. Yet I recommend starting here when you're bright-eyed and fresh.

You'll need a keen eye to navigate this messy space. Be prepared to sort through racks and dig through piles. Bargains are to be had for devoted shoppers, but it's not for the faint of heart. You could spend hours getting lost amidst the rails and racks, but try not to; there are many more stores to see.

#### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The satisfaction of finding a good bargain

#### RATING



Make Your Trip

#### CATEGORY

Trendy Shop

#### NEED TO KNOW

Get Here Early



# Blondie

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

Trendy Shop

## NEED TO KNOW

Underrated



## Offbeat Secret

Jerome Street, London E1, UK 020 7247 0050

After the chaos of the East End Thrift Store, browsing through Blondie's well-curated and well-organized vintage shop will be a breeze. There are plenty of pretty designer threads here for women, as well as a rather impressive selection of shoes and brand-name handbags.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The well-edited stock



# Absolute Vintage



## Offbeat Secret

15, Hanbury St, London E1 6QR, United Kingdom 020 7247 3883

Set in a cluttered space off Brick Lane, this vintage favorite stocks the good along with the bad, and it's up to you to sift through it all and determine what's what. Prices start low (around £5), but they quickly rise for higher quality items. Most of their stock is womenswear, but there is also a small men's section, as well as a vast shoe collection at the front near the entrance.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

There's so much choice

### RATING



Worth a Peek

### CATEGORY

Trendy Shop

Cool Street

### NEED TO KNOW

Offbeat



# Blitz

*RATING*



Make Your Trip

*CATEGORY*

Trendy Shop

*NEED TO KNOW*

Underrated



## Offbeat Secret

55 Hanbury Street, London E1 5JP, UK 020  
7377 0730

Before getting lost in its retro fashions, look out for discount leaflets for Blitz, which are usually dished out in the surrounding streets on weekends. Set in a renovated factory, Blitz is an organized, multi-story gem. Nothing is dusty, smelly or ripped; in fact, the stock is all near immaculate. The clothes here aren't unwanted castaways, but fashionable items in fine fettle — all neatly displayed alongside antique furniture, accessories and books.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

How well ordered it is



# OXFAM

## Oxfam Dalston

Wir sind davon überzeugt, dass Armut vermeidbar ist und überwunden werden kann.



### Offbeat Secret

514-518 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AH, UK  
020 7254 5318

If ever there is proof that all charity shops are not created equal, it's here at the Dalston branch of Oxfam. Dalston's trendy inhabitants flock here hoping to discover designer goods at cut-rate prices, which they often do. It doesn't always deliver in this regard, but even if there are no brand-name bargains to be had, there is a rather good book and vinyl section to sift through.

#### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

That you never know what you'll find

#### RATING



Make Your Trip

#### CATEGORY

Trendy Shop

#### NEED TO KNOW

Offbeat

People Watching



# Beyond Retro Dalston

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

Trendy Shop

## NEED TO KNOW

People Watching



## Offbeat Secret

90 Stoke Newington Road, London N16, UK  
020 7923 2277

This vintage chain store also has a branch in Brick Lane, but the Dalston one take pride of place on this list thanks to its on-site café. If you don't need a coffee by the time you get here, you'll definitely need one after you've finished sorting through the offerings in this vintage megastore. The merchandise, both for male and female, runs the gamut from Victorian-style accessories to floral tea dresses and stone wash jeans.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The charming cafe



# ITINERARY

## DAY 1

### Thrift shopping in the East End

Devote a day to thrift shopping in the East End and you're guaranteed to find something that takes your fancy. Start in Whitechapel, then gradually make your way north up Brick Lane. If you've still got any steam left — or money for that matter — hop on a bus up to Dalston, where you'll find even more unique vintage offerings. These are the top vintage stores I'd recommend in and around Brick Lane and Dalston, but there are plenty of others, as well as an abundance of temporary markets selling vintage wares, so keep your eyes peeled for even more second-hand goodies.

# MORNING

## East End Thrift Store

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**Offbeat  
Secret**

15 Assembly  
Passage, London  
E1 4EY, UK  
020 7423 9700

## Blondie

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**Offbeat  
Secret**

Jerome Street,  
London E1, UK  
020 7247 0050

# MORNING

## Absolute Vintage



### Offbeat Secret

15, Hanbury St,  
London E1 6QR,  
United Kingdom

020 7247 3883



## Blitz



### Offbeat Secret

55 Hanbury Street,  
London E1 5JP, UK

020 7377 0730



# AFTERNOON

## Oxfam Dalston

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**Offbeat  
Secret**

514-518 Kingsland  
Road, London E8  
4AH, UK

020 7254 5318

## Beyond Retro Dalston

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**Offbeat  
Secret**

90 Stoke  
Newington Road,  
London N16, UK

020 7923 2277

# BEFORE YOU GO

## I. WHAT TO TAKE

Thrift shopping can be a strenuous activity, especially if there are crowds to contend with, so dress comfortably.

## II. GETTING AROUND

The shops around Whitechapel and Brick Lane are all within a short walk of each other. To get to Dalston, take the number 67 bus from Shoreditch.

## III. MONEY AND TIPPING

It's best to bring cash with you. Alternatively, you'll find some ATMs on Whitechapel High Street at the bottom of Brick Lane.

## **IV. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

These areas are generally very safe.

## **V. USEFUL PHONE NUMBER, WEBSITES AND LOCAL APPS**

Check individual websites for opening hours.

## **VI. Local Notes**

Some vintage store sellers (and particularly those at market stalls) will be open to haggling, while others won't. Use your judgement. If there are price tags already in place, the chance of bringing down the cost is slim.



[www.buggl.com](http://www.buggl.com)