

The Ultimate Green Beauty Guide

Once upon a time, green beauty was hard to find in Hong Kong... but that time is long gone. **Rachel Read** seeks out the city's best natural, organic and eco beauty stores, spas and home-grown brands.

NATURAL STORES

Ditch your preservative-laden cosmetics for all-natural, organic skincare.

Cabane

This local e-boutique stocks independent, international organic and natural beauty brands that you won't find elsewhere in Hong Kong - including haircare from Tabitha James Kraan and Yarok, and skincare from Bottega Organica and 5YINA. Shipping costs \$50 whatever your order size, so stock up!
cabane.com.



A Beauty Bar

This local distributor of international brands carries an impressive roster of eco lines for your shopping pleasure - including organic colour cosmetics from Ilia, natural haircare from John Masters Organic, synthetic-free skincare from Esse and natural sun-care from Coola.
15/F, Kin Tak Fung Commercial Building, 467-473 Hennessy Rd., Causeway Bay, 2295-6072; more locations and online shopping at abeautybar.com.hk.



10/10 Hope

This multi-brand boutique does all the hard work for you, cherry-picking the best natural and organic beauty products from around the world and selling it all under one roof. Ranges include cult Brit favourite Neal's Yard Remedies, organic skincare from Grown Alchemist and Absolution, and dedicated organic baby care lines from Erbaviva.
Shop B11, Lab Concept, Queensway Plaza, Admiralty, 5920-7079; more locations at hk.1010hope.com.

BEYORG

Founded in 2005, Beyorg is a veteran of the green scene in Hong Kong - early proof that natural beauty is a force to be reckoned with. Its luxurious boutiques sell internationally renowned organic brands Susanne Kaufmann, Amala, RMS and Nuori, amongst others; they've also just opened the swanky No.8 Spa in the Landmark if you're looking for indulgent organic treatments.
Shop 1091B, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 2882-5218; more locations and online shopping at beyorgbeauty.com.



Little Things in Life

As a long-time sufferer of sensitive skin, Angela Wong started this excellently curated e-shop to share the all-natural skincare alternatives that helped cure her complexion. Brands available include organic makeup by Eye of Horus and 100% Pure, and skincare by Kahina and Sally B's Skin Yummies. There's free shipping on orders over \$500 (\$45 otherwise), or you can try the goods in-person at their showroom.
Visits by appointment at 2/F, 157-159 Wong Nai Chung Rd., Happy Valley, 9087-3338, ltilhk.com.



Skinbook

With a retail space in Langham Place operating alongside an e-commerce site, Skinbook has all your natural beauty shopping needs covered - with certified organic and eco-friendly skincare from brands including Biofficina Toscana, Naobay and OLOS on their shelves.
Shop K203, L2, Langham Place, 8 Argyle St., Mong Kok, +852 2866 1833; online shopping at skinbook.me.

Gooseberry Beauty

This small but perfectly formed store sells handcrafted organic and natural skincare from a trio of much-loved eco brands - Fig + Yarrow, MOA and Odylique. Shipping is free on orders over \$500 (\$35 otherwise), with the option of free pick-up from their store too.
Unit 1841, 18/F, Eton Tower, 8 Hysan Avenue, Causeway Bay, 6094-0663 (open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays and public holidays), gooseberrybeauty.com.



Gourmet Skin Bar

This super-slick e-boutique's extensive range of natural beauty brands puts many department store offerings to shame; lines include organic lipsticks from Nudus, natural sun-care from Suntegrity (exclusively sold here in Hong Kong), scrumptious fair-trade Hurraw lip balms, and organic skincare from Cowshed. Shipping is free on orders over \$500, or \$50 otherwise.
gourmetskinbar.com.



GREEN SPAS

Green beauty doesn't have to end at home: these spas provide all-natural pampering.



Spa L'Occitane
This haven of calm in Star Street will transport you to the South of France, via incredibly relaxing yet highly effective facials, massages and body treatments, all done exclusively with the brand's famed natural lotions and potions. Their shea butter massages are certain to fix any bad day!
Shop 3, Star Crest, 9 Star St., Wan Chai, 2143-6288, more locations at hk.loccitane.com.

Emmanuel F
Thought Emmanuel F only did hair? Think again. These green beauty long-timers have a whole spa area dedicated to delivering divine natural face, body, hand and feet, and waxing treatments – all using certified organic products from French brand Phyt's.
U/G, The Pemberton, 22-26 Bonham Strand, Sheung Wan, 2167-8280, emmanuel.f.com.

Lush Spa
What this cult British brand doesn't know about green beauty ain't worth knowing... and now they have a lovely jubbly spa in Hong Kong offering the ultimate in eco pampering. Gorgeous décor, unique quirky treatments (one's inspired by The Beatles) and incredible all-natural products - what's not to love?
Soho Square, 21 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, 3915-0638, hk.lush.com.



Iyara Natural Therapies
Did you know this popular home-grown spa chain has a venue dedicated to all things natural and organic? Their Hollywood Road location has a suitably eco-chic vibe and an extensive treatment menu covering face, body, hair and nails, using natural brands including Sundari and Clarks Botanicals.
2/F, 27 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2523-8700, iyaranaturaltherapies.com.



Sparadise
This organic oasis caters for all your pampering needs in style, with an extensive menu of facials, massages, body treatments, nail services, waxing and even tanning, all done with organic products. Local brands such as Native Essentials and Coconut Matter share the spotlight with established eco lines Juice Beauty and Sparitual... and the results speak for themselves.
3-4/F, 60 Wellington St., Central, 2997-2208, sparadise.com.hk.

Hong Kong Brands

Who says nothing is made in Hong Kong any more? These brands keep their beauty local.

Bahia Cosmetics
All-natural ingredients sourced directly from Moroccan women's cooperatives, recyclable packaging and highly effective results - Hong Kong-based Bahia ticks all our eco boxes. Their 100 percent pure Argan oil, rose water and Rhassoul clay elixirs are true skincare saviours.
Available at Home Evoriginal, Room D, 1/F, 13 Yu Chau St., Prince Edward, 5281-3081; more stockists and online shopping at bahiacosmetics.com.



We Are NO Expert
This blooming lovely local brand hand-makes all the products in its natural skincare line, including flower waters, face creams, serums and soaps. Their kefir yoghurt masks have a bit of a cult following; they're made only once a month, so mark your diaries!
Available at Eslite, Shop 1014, 10/F Hysan Place, 500 Hennessy Rd., Causeway Bay, 3419-6779; more stockists and online shopping at wearenoexpert.com.



Bathe to Basics
This boutique is a haven for beauty lovers – a gorgeous Kinfolk-ready space piled high with the brand's locally produced organic and sustainable skin, body and haircare products. Signatures include ultra moisturising cream soap bars and gentle face washes... Now that's the kind of basic we can get on board with.
\$403, Block A, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central, 2858-8135; more stockists and online shopping at bathetobasics.com.



Native Essentials
"Simple, pure, botanical luxury" – this home-grown brand's slogan says it all really. Made in small batches with the finest freshest ingredients, this line of potent natural skincare and unique essential oil blends is a winner for the whole family.
Available at Sparadise, 3-4/F, 60 Wellington St., Central, 2997-2208; more stockists and online shopping at nativesentials.com.



Purearth
Bringing ancient Ayurvedic wisdom well and truly into the 21st century, this stunning skincare line highlights nutrient-rich natural ingredients harvested ethically in the Himalayas – and has won rave reviews from Vogue India as a result.
Visits by appointment at 6/F, Cheung Hing Industrial Building, 12P Smithfield Rd., Kennedy Town, 6080-0045; more stockists and online shopping at purearth.asia.



POLISH IT OFF

We've come a long way from the dark days of nail polish, where the smell alone was toxic enough to strip paint! Here are some of the best non-toxic lacquers in Hong Kong:

SpaRitual

This well-established brand of cruelty-free, vegan nail polish is all 5-free - meaning it's formulated without harmful chemicals DBP, toluene, camphor, formaldehyde and formaldehyde resin.

Available at A Beauty Bar.



Kure Bazaar

A chic cruelty-free French brand that's both 5-free and vegan; its formula is composed of up to 85 percent natural ingredients, including wood pulp, wheat, cotton, potatoes and corn.

Available at The Nail Library, L/1, 10-12 On Wo Lane, Central, 2803-2290.



JINSoon

Created by influential New York nail artist Jin Soon (Sarah Jessica Parker is a fan), this elegant line of high-shine polishes is 5-free, vegan and never tested on animals.

Available at Beyorg.



Deborah Lippmann

Manicurist to the stars Deborah Lippmann is renowned for her rainbow of lacquer colours, with a long-wear Gel Lab Pro series of polishes too (no UV lamp required!). They're all 7-free (5-free, plus no xylene or diethylhexyl adipate either), vegan and cruelty-free.

Available at Joyce Beauty, Lane Crawford, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St., Central, 3572-0364, more locations at joyce.com.



THE GREEN GLOSSARY

Sometimes it feels like you need a science degree to decipher your product labels! Here's our quick guide to some of the most common green beauty buzzwords:

PARABENS: commonly used to prevent bacteria growth in cosmetics, they've historically proven safer and more effective than other preservatives, but some studies have shown a potential link to breast cancer.

PHthalates: a type of chemical with many uses, including as a stabiliser in fragrances and plasticiser in nail polish; has been linked to endocrinal (i.e. hormone) disruption.

Sulfates: used as cleansing agents in skin and haircare; SLS (sodium lauryl sulfate) is one of the most commonly used and has a good safety record, but it can also trigger allergic skin reactions.

MICROBEADS: tiny non-biodegradable plastic particles often found in exfoliators and scrubs, which then pollute the ocean and get eaten by marine life. Banned in the US, but not in Hong Kong.

ORGANIC: there are no global regulations on the use of this word - and no official certifications for organic beauty in Hong Kong - so buying can be a bit of a trust exercise; for international brands, look for organic certifications from their country of origin, like Ecocert.