

# The Great American CANDY SHOP

Our search for the country's best candy store led us to 50 sweet spots—and an unforgettable winner in Philadelphia.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TREVOR DIXON

## PENNSYLVANIA Shane Confectionery Philadelphia

Walking into Shane Confectionery is like stepping back in time—more than 150 years. When brothers Eric and Ryan Berley bought the Old City candy shop from the Shane family in 2010, they closed it immediately for 18 months to restore it to its 19th-century glory. The two history buffs tracked down display jars from the 1800s and early 1900s, retrofitted antique sugar boxes to hide computerized registers and curated an old-fashioned candy collection. “We wanted the whole experience to be like it was when this opened in 1863,” Eric says. All the staffers look the part: When you enter, you’re greeted by smiling shopkeepers wearing hats and bow ties or floor-length dresses and hairnets, and when you make your way upstairs, you find a workshop where candy makers crank out treats by hand, including crystal candy figurines (called clear-toy candy), fudge and the brothers’ signature Whirly Berley Bars.

### THE BERLEY BROTHERS

Eric and Ryan never miss a chance to play—or dress—the part of old-school candy makers when they’re behind the counter.



## On the Road



### ORIGINAL DISPLAY

"We tried to stay true to the way the Shane family displayed everything," Eric says. The brothers kept the Shane's cabinets and added glass fronts.



### SEASONAL FUDGE

Fudge is a bestseller, especially the Boardwalk variety (a nod to the Jersey Shore). In the fall the Berleys break out the crowd-pleaser: pumpkin fudge topped with pecans and a swirl of caramel.



### VINTAGE GLASS

The Berleys' mother is an antiques dealer, and she helped track down some of the 100 old glass containers to round out the collection left by the Shane family.



### OLD REGISTERS

The early-1900s cash registers, one of which was in Eric and Ryan's childhood home, are mostly for show: "They hold bills, but we keep the computerized registers hidden," Eric says.



### HANDMADE CHOCOLATE

Upstairs, chocolatiers make the signature Whirly Berley Bar: layers of salted chocolate caramel and honey nougat (made with honey from rooftop hives), dunked in dark chocolate and sprinkled with cocoa nibs.

Here's where to satisfy your sweet tooth in the other 49 states—and D.C., too!

**ALABAMA**  
**Punta Clara Kitchen**  
**Point Clear**

Four generations of the Pacey family have run this tiny sweetshop. Dorothy Brodbeck Pacey started it in her backyard, selling just fig preserves and pralines, and now the spot sells sponge candy and bourbon balls, too. [puntaclara.com](http://puntaclara.com)



**ALASKA**  
**The Alaskan Fudge Company**  
**Juneau**

The fudge recipe used at this shop dates back to the 1800s: It was meant to be fondue, but a happy accident turned it into the bestseller it is today. [alaskanfudge.com](http://alaskanfudge.com)

**ARIZONA**  
**Dulceria La Bonita**  
**Multiple locations**

This wholesaler is open to the public and sells more than 500 kinds of candy from Mexico. Plus, the Phoenix location has a roomful of piñatas to hold your stash. [labonitadulceria.com](http://labonitadulceria.com)

**ARKANSAS**  
**Martin Greer's Candies**  
**Garfield**

All the candy at this family-run business is handmade following recipes from *Rigby's Reliable Candy Teacher*, which dates from the late 1800s. [martingreerscandies.com](http://martingreerscandies.com)



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Fog City News**  
**San Francisco**

This shop's chocolate selection (200 varieties) is rivaled only by its magazine collection: You'll find more than 2,000 titles on the racks. [fogcitynews.com](http://fogcitynews.com)

**COLORADO**  
**Enstrom Candies**  
**Multiple locations**

Chet Enstrom's friends convinced him to sell his famous toffee in 1960. Now, his family runs five locations. [enstrom.com](http://enstrom.com)

**CONNECTICUT**  
**Fascia's Chocolates**  
**Waterbury**

The best part of a visit to Fascia's is the chocolate tour: Visitors get to pour, spread and decorate their own candy bars with toppings like Fruity Pebbles or toasted coconut. [fasciaschocolates.com](http://fasciaschocolates.com)

**DELAWARE**  
**Govatos Chocolates**  
**Wilmington**

Mention chocolate in Wilmington and most people will point you to Govatos, the century-old family business known for its almond butter crunch. [govatoschocolates.com](http://govatoschocolates.com)

**FLORIDA**  
**Honeydukes**  
**Orlando**

Harry Potter fans know Honeydukes, and this is the storybook spot come to life. You'll find all the wacky sweets—like Fizzing Whizbees and Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans—that Hogwarts students love. [universolorlando.com](http://universolorlando.com)



**GEORGIA**  
**Paul Thomas Chocolates**  
**Dahlonega**

You can watch chocolatiers work the conveyor assembly—often called the "Lucy Machine," based on the iconic candy-making episode of *I Love Lucy*. [paulthomaschocolates.com](http://paulthomaschocolates.com)

**HAWAII**  
**Nisshodo Candy Store**  
**Honolulu**

The shop's Japanese treats are made from recipes that founder Asataro Hirao brought over from Hiroshima in 1916. [nisshodomochicandy.com](http://nisshodomochicandy.com)

**IDAHO**  
**Idaho Candy Company**  
**Boise**

Idaho Candy Company's factory is more than 100 years old, and the Idaho Spud—a coconut-marshmallow bar—has been a fan favorite for almost as long. [idahospud.com](http://idahospud.com)

**ILLINOIS**  
**Candyality**  
**Chicago**

Ask the cashiers to tell you your "candy personality": Crunchy-candy lovers tend to be negotiators, and fans of sour candy are risk takers. [candyality.com](http://candyality.com)



**INDIANA**  
**Albanese Confectionery**  
**Merrillville**

This is gummy candy mecca: It churns out 72 million gummies a day in 50 shapes and flavors. [albanesecandy.com](http://albanesecandy.com)

**IOWA**  
**Popcorn Shoppe**  
**North Liberty**

Fill a 6½-gallon bag with your choice of more than 60 flavors of popcorn, like cotton candy and strawberry cheesecake. [popcornshoppecr.com](http://popcornshoppecr.com)



**ARIZONA**  
**Dulceria**  
**La Bonita**



**FLORIDA**  
**Honeydukes**

HONEYDUKES: UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT; CANDY: GETTY IMAGES

## On the Road



**NEVADA**  
Barrels O Candy



**NEW YORK**  
Papabubble

### **KANSAS** Cero's Candies Wichita

Cero's Candies has been a Kansas staple since 1885, making it one of the state's oldest continuously running candy shops. [ceroscandy.com](http://ceroscandy.com)

### **KENTUCKY** Art Eatables Louisville

Kentucky is known for bourbon, and this chocolate shop adds the liquor to all of its truffles. [arteatables.com](http://arteatables.com)

### **LOUISIANA** Roman Candy Company New Orleans

This candy outfit sells its famous 14-inch taffy sticks from the same mule-drawn wagon that was used when it opened in 1915. [romancandy.com](http://romancandy.com)



### **MAINE** Dean's Sweets Portland

Dean's Sweets has a rotating menu of fun truffle flavors, like lemon-apricot-chèvre, tequila-lime, and cayenne. [deanssweets.com](http://deanssweets.com)

### **MARYLAND** Mouth Party Caramels Baltimore

The caramel recipe at this family-owned shop dates back four generations. Try some sprinkled with Maryland's famous Old Bay Seasoning. [mouthpartycaramel.com](http://mouthpartycaramel.com)

### **MASSACHUSETTS** Ye Olde Pepper Candy Companie Salem

America's first commercially available candies, Salem Gibralters, have been sold here for more than 200 years. [peppercandy.net](http://peppercandy.net)

### **MICHIGAN** Doc Sweets' Candy Company Clawson

This 5,000-square-foot outpost draws customers from all over, for classics (Abba-Zaba) and not-so-classics (candy-covered crickets). [docsweets.com](http://docsweets.com)

### **MINNESOTA** Minnesota's Largest Candy Store Jordan

This sweetshop is bigger than a football field and packed with more than 3,000 kinds of candy. Visit on Facebook.



### **MISSISSIPPI** Margarete's Fine Chocolates Tupelo

Many of the chocolates in this shop are made with Tupelo honey, a Mississippi treasure and one of the sweetest varieties. [margaretesfinechocolates.com](http://margaretesfinechocolates.com)

### **MISSOURI** How Sweet Is This Clayton

This shop's nickname is The Itsy Bitsy Candy Store: It's only 300 square feet, but the owners have packed it with old-school treats like Big League Chew and a wall full of gummies. [howsweetisthis.com](http://howsweetisthis.com)

### **MONTANA** The Parrot Confectionery Helena

Regulars often enter through the shop's back door and peek at the candy makers in the kitchen. You can usually spot someone whipping up the namesake candy, the Parrot, made with pecans and chocolate. [parrotchocolate.com](http://parrotchocolate.com)

### **NEBRASKA** Licorice International Lincoln

Licorice can be much more interesting than the average red or black varieties, and this shop proves it with a selection of nearly 160 kinds from a dozen countries, including toffee licorice from Ireland and anise hard candies from France. [licoriceinternational.com](http://licoriceinternational.com)



### **NEVADA** Barrels O Candy Virginia City

The name here is no joke: The store has more than 200 barrels of candy, and 72 of them are filled with taffy. 775-847-9500

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE** Chutters Multiple locations

You're certain to find something you want here: The 112-foot candy counter at the Littleton shop is the world's longest. [chutters.com](http://chutters.com)

### **NEW JERSEY** Black River Candy Shoppe Chester

The owners of Black River Candy Shoppe have been collecting PEZ dispensers for almost 17 years, and they've covered the walls with 400 of them (and counting). [blackrivercandyshoppe.com](http://blackrivercandyshoppe.com)

### **NEW MEXICO** The Candy Lady Albuquerque

This shop has Hollywood ties: The prop stylists for *Breaking Bad* tapped the store's owner to make blue rock candy that they used as Walter White's meth. [thecandy lady.com](http://thecandy lady.com)



### **NEW YORK** Papabubble New York City

The back wall at Papabubble looks more like a science lab than a candy store: It's stocked with beakers of flavoring used to make the shop's hard candies. [papabubble ny.com](http://papabubble ny.com)

### **NORTH CAROLINA** The Candy Factory Lexington

Customers loved the antique decorations here so much, the owners started selling them as well as candy. [lexingtoncandyfactory.com](http://lexingtoncandyfactory.com)

### **NORTH DAKOTA** The Little Sweet Shop Grand Forks

The confectioners regularly stock new flavors of fudge—and they take recommendations from customers, too. 701-885-2551

### **OHIO** Spangler Candy Bryan

Spangler Candy has been making Dum Dums lollipops for more than 60 years; you can take a trolley tour to see the production. [spanglercandy.com](http://spanglercandy.com)

**OKLAHOMA**

**Pinkitzel Cupcakes & Candy**  
Multiple locations

Kitzel is Yiddish for tickle, and the owners want you to be tickled pink when you shop this store. They even have pink-clad knights standing guard. [pinkitzel.com](http://pinkitzel.com)

**OREGON**

**Quin**  
Portland

This is a locavore's candy store: Local ingredients, like Portland-brewed coffee and hazelnuts from Monmouth, go into the confections. [quinandy.com](http://quinandy.com)

**RHODE ISLAND**

**Hauser Chocolatier**  
Westerly

This shop is known for its chocolate lace: chocolate-covered caramel in delicate patterns. It's home to the only machine in the U.S. that makes the stuff. [hauserchocolates.com](http://hauserchocolates.com)



**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**I Love Sugar**  
Myrtle Beach

The decor alone could give you a sugar high: There are gummy bear chandeliers—made from 10,000 bears—and a 55-foot candy wall stocked with 88 kinds of treats. [ilovesugar.com](http://ilovesugar.com)

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Custer County Candy Company**  
Custer

Many folks swing by this shop on their way to Mount Rushmore for a box of handmade truffles—they come in 20 flavors. [custercountycandycompany.com](http://custercountycandycompany.com)

**TENNESSEE**

**The Bang Candy Company**  
Nashville

Marshmallows are the main attraction here: There's a case full of them when you enter, with flavors like rose-cardamom and chocolate-chile. [bangcandycompany.com](http://bangcandycompany.com)

**TEXAS**

**The Candy Jar**  
Austin

This spot makes sure customers get their candy fix: When you sign up for the Sugar Rush Club, you get a curated box of goodies in the mail every month. [thecandyjartx.com](http://thecandyjartx.com)



**UTAH**

**Chocolate Covered Wagon**  
Multiple locations

This train station turned candy store in West Jordan is famous for its saltwater taffy, made on a 1950s machine. [chocolatecoveredwagon.com](http://chocolatecoveredwagon.com)

**VERMONT**

**Maple City Candy**  
Swanton

This shop sells maple candy in many shapes, but a favorite is the "Champ," inspired by the monster reputedly living in Lake Champlain. [maplecandyvt.com](http://maplecandyvt.com)

**VIRGINIA**

**The Sugar Cube**  
Alexandria

The owners regularly host candy-making classes based on seasonal favorites, like conversation hearts and Irish potatoes. [sugarcubesweets.com](http://sugarcubesweets.com)

**WASHINGTON**

**Sweet Mickey's**  
Seattle

This Ballard neighborhood sweetshop is famous for its licorice selection, a nod to the area's Scandinavian ties. [sweetmickeys.com](http://sweetmickeys.com)

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Cocova**

This spot is for serious chocolate lovers: It sells more than 300 kinds of chocolate from far-flung spots like Madagascar and Italy. [cocova.com](http://cocova.com)



**WEST VIRGINIA**

**Cool Confectionaries**  
Harpers Ferry

A former market researcher opened this store, selling historic sweets like horehound hard candy and old-fashioned gum. [coolconfectionaries.com](http://coolconfectionaries.com)

**WISCONSIN**

**Goody Goody Gum Drop**  
Multiple locations

This place brings the self-serve fro-yo treatment to cotton candy: A machine delivers a cone at the press of a button. [goodygumdrop.com](http://goodygumdrop.com)

**WYOMING**

**Meeteetse Chocolatier**  
Meeteetse

Former rodeo cowboy Tim Kellogg first sold chocolates to pay for a new saddle, but eager customers (and a rodeo injury) led him to open up a storefront. [meeteetsechocolatier.com](http://meeteetsechocolatier.com)



THE CANDY JAR: MIGUEL ANGEL CANDY; GETTY IMAGES.