Being petite means living life from a slightly lower (and more unique!) vantage point. I’ve learned to love my [4-foot-11 “pixie” height](https://www.instyle.com/petite-flare-leg-jeans-editor-picks-11685704), though that doesn’t mean it’s without its challenges—like scaling [counters](http://www.facebook.com) to reach the top shelf or jumping to catch my reflection in a bathroom mirror set way too high. Another hurdle? Finding dresses that actually fit my mini frame.

Like any true investigative shopping editor, I dove into the [petite sections of top retailers](https://www.instyle.com/news/petite-friendly-stores) (think: [Anthropologie](https://www.anthropologie.com/shop/hybrid/pilcro-long-sleeve-v-neck-embroidered-swing-shirt-dress), [Reformation](https://www.thereformation.com/products/petites-woodson-dress/1313883IVO.html), and [Abercrombie & Fitch](https://www.abercrombie.com/shop/us/p/the-a-and-f-mila-denim-midi-dress-56726819)), scouting for dresses that claimed to flatter shorter frames. The real test? I took each one out for a test drive, pairing the frocks—except for one—with flat shoes to see if they *truly* passed the short-girl assessment. Spoiler alert: they delivered.

I was absolutely floored by the elegant drape of this [Abercrombie & Fitch denim midi dress](https://www.abercrombie.com/shop/us/p/the-a-and-f-mila-denim-midi-dress-56726819). The fabric was thick and crisp, while the corset bodice hugged my silhouette in all the right places. The denim hue was reminiscent of deep ocean water, turning a rather casual ensemble into a picture-perfect look for yacht trips and wine tastings alike. Most notably, the hem hit just above my ankles, perfect for pairing with my chic [M.Gemi ballet flats](https://mgemi.com/products/the-una-dark-red-nappa%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) (and limiting my worries on whether or not it would drag on the NYC subway stairs). I’m a California girl living in New York—but I have a special place in my heart for all things country. So, it comes as no surprise that I gravitated towards the [Pilcro Swing Dress](https://www.anthropologie.com/shop/hybrid/pilcro-long-sleeve-v-neck-embroidered-swing-shirt-dress%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Beyond the intricate embroidery, delicate button details, and high-low hem, I was pleasantly surprised that the oversized fit didn’t overwhelm my frame—even with slim [Tkees flip-flops](https://tkees.com/products/square-toe-lily-croc-carob). The loose dress comfortably hung from my shoulders, keeping things airy and easy, ideal for park picnics and laidbacks summer days. Shop more dresses for every occasion from some of my favorite petite shopping destinations, below. It’s all about finding the right fit—not limiting your style choices just because traditional sizing has overlooked shorter bodies in the past. It’s rare that I find a cottagecore dress that I *actually*like. More often than not, the slightly-too-big fit makes me look as if I just walked off the set of *Little House on the Prairie*. Thankfully, Reformation did it right with its rows of sheer lace and front buttons, perfect for revealing a hint of skin. The skirt hovered well above the floor, even when I removed my heeled [Bared cowgirl boots](https://baredfootwear.com/us/products/willet-black-leather-heeled-boots).

Being petite means approaching life from a slightly different (and unique!) perspective. Vantage point. My "pixie" height of 4 feet 11 inches has taught me to appreciate it, but that doesn't mean it doesn't come with its challenges—like scaling counters to get to the top shelf or jumping to see my reflection in a bathroom mirror that's set way too high. Another hurdle? Locating dresses that fit my diminutive frame. Like any true investigative shopping editor, I dove into the petite sections of top retailers (think: Anthropologie, Reformation, and Abercrombie & Fitch), scouting for dresses that claimed to flatter shorter frames. The genuine test? I took each one out for a test drive, pairing the frocks—except for one—with flat shoes to see if they truly passed the short-girl assessment. They did what they said they would. This Abercrombie & Fitch denim midi dress's elegant drape left me speechless. The corset bodice hugged my silhouette precisely, and the fabric was thick and crisp. A rather casual outfit was transformed into a picture-perfect ensemble for yacht trips and wine tastings thanks to the denim color's deep oceanic hue. Most notably, the hem hit just above my ankles, perfect for pairing with my chic M.Gemi ballet flats (and limiting my worries on whether or not it would drag on the NYC subway stairs). I’m a California girl living in New York—but I have a special place in my heart for all things country. I naturally gravitated toward the Pilcro Swing Dress as a result. Even with the slim Tkees flip-flops, I was pleasantly surprised that the oversized fit didn't overwhelm my frame, despite the intricate embroidery, delicate button details, and high-low hem. The loose dress comfortably hung from my shoulders, keeping things airy and easy, ideal for park picnics and laidback summer days. Find additional dresses for every occasion at some of my favorite petite stores below. It's all about finding the right fit, not restricting your style options because traditional sizing has historically ignored shorter bodies. It's not often that I actually like a cottagecore dress. More often than not, the slightly-too-big fit makes me look as if I just walked off the set of Little House on the Prairie. Thankfully, Reformation did it right with its rows of sheer lace and front buttons, perfect for revealing a hint of skin. The skirt hovered well above the floor, even when I removed my heeled Bared cowgirl boots.