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who globe-trots as host of the Travel Channel’s “Great Weekends.” “As a traveler, you make nothing but first impressions. Dressing well is universal, and it helps you get treated well in shops and waited on at restaurants.”

Old-school packing rules (“no” to linen, “yes” to knits) can mean you arrive refreshed, not rumpled. But a T-shirt touting another jaunt (“Ithaca is Gorges”) won’t wow natives or other travelers. Instead, go for easy-to-layer cardigans and a worldly chick’s secret weapon: the frock. “I’m on a book tour now, and I’ve got eight knit dresses in my bag,” says Paige. “They’re whole outfits you can dress up or down.”

The joy of an escape also includes outfitting yourself to suit the surroundings. Yoga wear fits a Napa spa; a cocktail gown — maybe Lanvin? — rules for dinner in Paris. Blending in both keeps you safe (“Jeans shorts and a camera make you an easy mark in Rome,” says Brown) and allows you to cloak yourself in another culture. “I think about how I want to feel when I arrive,” says Bellows. “I just went to Mexico and didn’t want to look J. Crew. I took gauzy shirts, dangling earrings and metallic sandals.”

Capturing fashion trophies — a colorful Thai scarf, Navajo turquoise earrings — on the road can even improve your trip. “Most women are up for a retail safari,” says Bellows. “And if you get an unbelievable gold necklace in India, it’ll remind you of your trip when you’re home.”

Still, before you snag a style souvenir, consider how it will come across in your real world. “I pick up accessories, which are easier to incorporate into your wardrobe than, say, a sari,” says Arlington personal shopper Cathy Phillips.

Brown, who loves trolling boutiques in strange cities, also encourages restraint. “You don’t want to come home and say, ‘Why did I buy this sombrero?’” Besides, it probably won’t fit in your carry-on anyway. JENNIFER BARGER

## The Getaway As Runway

Traveling shouldn’t be a roadblock to good style, and it might land you fashion trophies

**TRAVEL BROCHURES** set the bar for vacation fashion higher than Hong Kong’s towering skyline. If you believe their marketing hype, you’ll need Anna Wintour’s furs and sunglasses to shop in Paris, and Gisele Bündchen’s bod — and weensy bikini — to frolic in Sao Paulo. And where the heck do the babes in cruise ads store those mile-wide sun hats on their flights to Hawaii?

Unless you leave town with a trunk-lugging assistant, dressing with the same panache on the road as you do at home might be as fruitless as Don Quixote’s quests. But jetting to Bhutan or Barcelona shouldn’t mean entirely jettisoning your sartorial sense, even though practicalities (fabrics that resist roll-on wrinkles, shoes fit for cobblestones) seem to trump glamour. “I wish I had a Wonder Woman jumpsuit for travel. Your wardrobe has to do so many things,” says D.C. writer (and frequent flyer) Melina Gerosa Bellows, author of “The Fun Book for Girlfriends” (\$13, Andrews McMeel). “So I try to not overpack. I’ll put in my go-to black pants, white T-shirts and lots of accessories, which add style without taking up much room.”

Still, the need for comfort in transit shouldn’t cause you to morph into the Lesser American Sloth, so step away from the Juicy tracksuit. “You’d never wear a bikini top and skirt to dinner at home, so it’s a bad idea in Key West, too,” says TLC network stylist Andy Paige and author of “Style on a Shoestring” (\$17, McGraw-Hill).

It’s fine to pack flat shoes, but there’s no excuse for bringing clunky Crocs, unless you’re 3 years old and building sand castles. “I try to look put-together, even if it’s just ballet flats, jeans and a cashmere sweater for the plane,” says Samantha Brown,

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