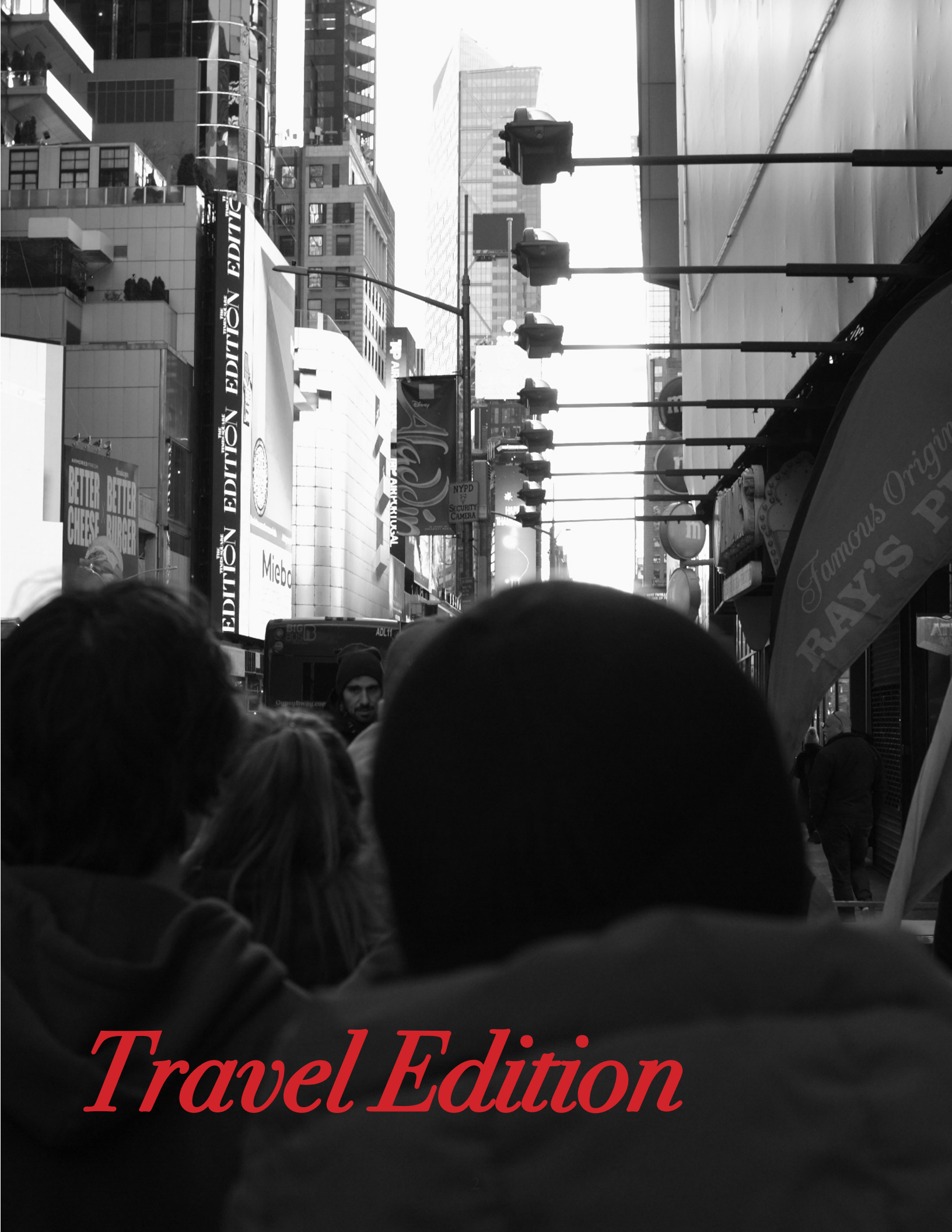


Fall 2025
STATEMENT
Travel Edition





Travel Edition

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Editorial

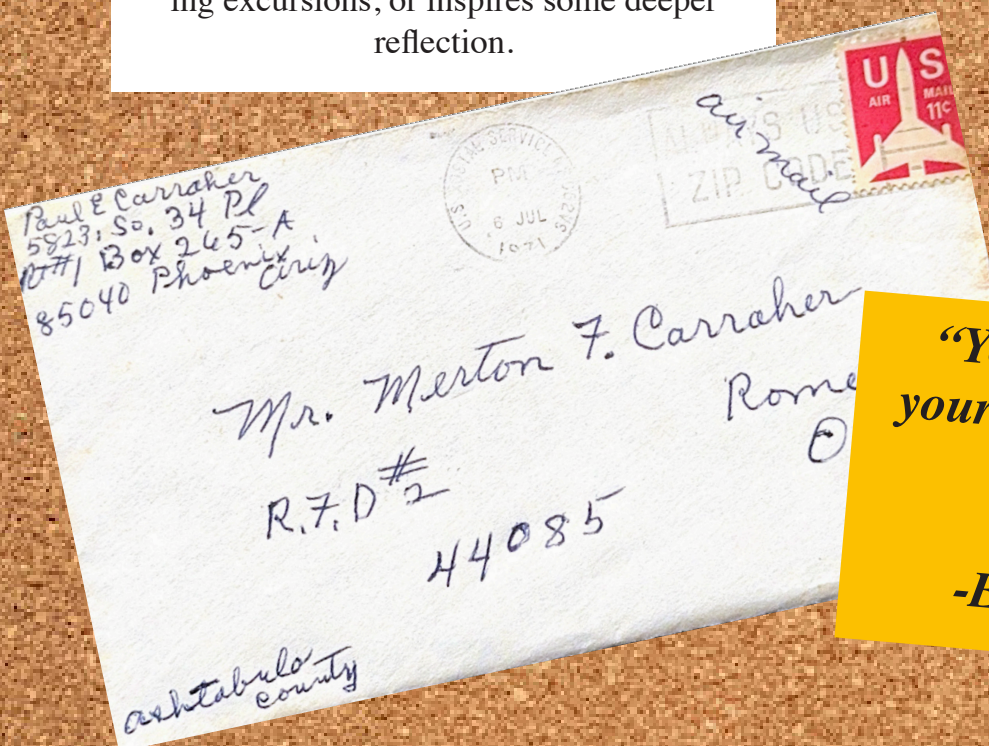
My first time in Italy was an unforgettable experience for my personal growth.

There is just something so elegant and unpretentious about how the people over there carry themselves.

That's what stuck with me – these people look great, and it's because they are happy. And they are happy because they look good. The two are forever intertwined. This is how they live their lives – living in the beauty of every day.

Travel is instrumentally important to all of our development. It's part of what dictates and drives the human experience – the ability to physically displace ourselves from routine.

This issue of Statement is just a snapshot of some of our collective memories and experiences through our travels. We hope this excites and inspires you for any upcoming excursions, or inspires some deeper reflection.



"You can't get away from yourself by moving from one place to another."

-Ernest Hemmingway



Rachel Ahrens

Senior
Editor

I love working with all the models and other editors on shoots. It's so fun seeing everyone get excited about bringing the vision to life!



Samantha Ellenberger

Junior
Editor

I love working creatively with the team of editors and seeing our work come together in the end!



Hannah Hochadel

Junior
Editor

I love the photoshoot experience and creating the details in InDesign!



Trevor Kinnear

Senior
Editor

STATEMENT gives me valid reason to rant and create; for that, I am eternally grateful.



Bella Merry

Junior
Editor

I love the creative process of STATEMENT and seeing it all come together!



Kayleiana Rhodes

Junior
Co-Editor

I love getting to see a bunch of people's voices be put into one piece for something they are passionate about!



Amara Ventura

Junior
Co-Editor

What I love most about being a writer and editor for Statement is witnessing the way individual creativity merges into a shared vision.

The Most Stylish Cities in the World and How to Dress Like a Local

Samantha Ellenberger

Style isn't just about what you wear, it's also about how you wear it and where. Around the world, certain cities have become synonymous with fashion, turning their streets into runways. Whether you're traveling for school, pleasure, or inspiration, dressing like a local in one of the world's most stylish cities can help you blend in—and stand out for all the right reasons. Here's 5 of the most fashionable cities and how to dress like a local:

1. Paris, France: The French capital is the holy grail of modern chic. Parisians value quality over quantity and lean toward neutral colors, structured pieces, and timeless accessories.

How to Dress Like a Local:

- Stick to a neutral palette (black, white, navy, beige)
- Tailored blazers, trench coats, and ankle boots are staples.
- Invest in high-quality basics—cashmere sweaters, straight-leg jeans, and leather handbags.
- Keep it subtle with makeup and accessories. Less is more.
- For men: a tailored coat, slim-fit chinos or dark jeans, and classic leather shoes (like Chelsea boots or derbies) are Parisian musts.



2. Milan, Italy: Sophisticated Glamour: Milanese fashion is bold yet polished. Locals exude confidence in designer labels, sharp tailoring, and high-end accessories—but never look overdone.

How to Dress Like a Local:

- Think sleek and stylish—structured dresses, fine fabrics, and designer shoes.
- Accessories matter: sunglasses, leather belts, and statement handbags are essential.
- Embrace bold prints or rich colors, but balance them with neutrals.
- For men: tailored suits, loafers, and attention to grooming go a long way.

3. Tokyo, Japan: Tokyo fashion is fearless. You'll see a range of styles, from avant-garde streetwear to minimalist elegance.

How to Dress Like a Local:

- Experiment with layers, textures, and unexpected color combinations.
- Streetwear brands (local and global) are big. Think oversized jackets, platform shoes, and graphic tees.
- Accessories like hats, bold bags, and statement jewelry complete the look.
- Confidence is key. Tokyo style is all about individual expression.
- For men: Oversized bomber jackets, wide-leg pants, and layered shirts are staples.



4. Copenhagen, Denmark: Copenhagen street style is defined by minimalism, sustainability, and comfort. It's fashionable without trying too hard and focuses on sustainably sourced styles.

How to Dress Like a Local:

- Neutral tones, clean lines, and relaxed silhouettes are a must.
- Invest in high-quality fabrics and ethical brands.
- Footwear tends to be practical—sneakers, sandals, or chunky boots.
- Layering is essential, often with a Scandinavian twist: oversized knits, trenches, and scarves.
- For men: opt for high-quality basics: crewneck sweaters, relaxed-fit trousers, and waterproof sneakers.

5. New York City, USA: NYC fashion is as diverse as the city itself, but it leans heavily into functional fashion with an edge. Think street-smart, fast-paced, and trend-aware.

How to Dress Like a Local:

- Mix high-low fashion: designer sneakers with vintage denim, or a luxury bag with a thrifted coat.
- Embrace athleisure and layering.
- For outerwear, a stylish trenchcoat is essential. New Yorkers treat it as a statement piece.
- For men: start with black jeans, a white tee, and a bomber or leather jacket.



How To Scrapbook Like a Pro

Olivia Showers

\$9.99 per month is \$120 per year, which accumulates to \$1,200 per decade. The price to preserve digital photos and videos is far greater than one can even comprehend. Yet, no amount of storage ever seems to be enough, and nobody wants to risk losing irreplaceable memories. While the monthly iCloud, Google Photos, or soon to be Snapchat payments may seem unavoidable, there is a simple solution to turn annual photo fees into occasional ones—scrapbooking. Instead of constantly spending money on digital space like an empty storage unit, expend your funds on physical photos and create keepsakes you, future family, and friends can cherish.

Even though scrapbooking might seem intimidating, there are plenty of uncomplicated ways to start. The simplest method is to order a basic photo album off of Amazon, most of which come in a variety of colors, and merely slide your printed photos into the pre-sized slots. Using a ready-made album is great for beginners, as you'll know exactly how many photos to order, and the construction process is fairly quick. Plus, if you're looking to add a personal touch, many albums come with spaces and lines designed for you to write.

For those looking to create a more traditional scrapbook, the first step is choosing an album with large, singular slots per page rather than one made up of four 4x6 or 5x7 slots. Next, pick out different scrapbook or cardstock papers to serve as the background for your pages. Decide how many pictures you want to include on each page, adhering them with double stick tape or glue. You can also consider cutting your photos to various sizes or shapes, scalloping their edges or making funky corners. Once your photos are in place, it's time to decorate with stickers, drawings, ribbons and any other embellishments to bring your page to life. Lastly, don't forget to include any mementos you have, such as plane tickets, programs, and handwritten notes from loved ones.

In today's fast-paced electronic society, it is refreshing to transform digital media into something tangible. Scrapbooking is truly boundless in terms of creativity and allows individuals to once again experience memories in the present, rather than through a screen. Plus, no matter how full your suitcase may be upon returning from a destination, you will always have a souvenir.





10 Fashions Hacks You Need for Mediterranean Travel

Hannah Hochadel

I recently traveled to Greece for ten days with school and had a wonderful experience. This was my first time traveling out of the country, and I learned the many dos and don'ts of international travel. These are the top ten fashion hacks you need to follow while traveling to the Mediterranean.

1. Bring a cute crossbody bag

Countries in the Mediterranean are known for pick pocketers, so it is important to have a bag that fully zips and can be worn close to your body. The one I used could also be worn as a shoulder bag and was a neutral brown leather to match all my outfits.

2. Heels – just no

I don't care how cute the heels are, do not pack them. Most travel tours are thousands of steps every day, and comfort is the most important thing. I promise your feet will thank you later.

3. So, if no heels, what are the right shoes?

Comfort doesn't mean sacrificing style. Many sandal companies are known for their durable yet cute sandals, such as Birkenstocks, REEF, and Teva. I personally wore ankle strapped Steve Maddens, and they were super comfortable throughout the whole trip.

4. Pack a light sweater

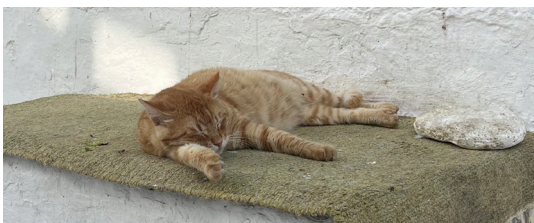
Although it is usually quite hot in the Mediterranean, the weather can change in an instant, so it is smart to always carry a light sweater or shawl. If you plan on visiting any religious sites like churches or temples, many will have you cover your shoulders upon entrance. For convenience, try to find a sweater that will fit in your cross-body bag.

5. Don't be afraid to outfit repeat

Outfit repeating is a great option for people who don't want to overstuff their suitcases. Re-wearing the same top or bottoms is very helpful when going on longer trips.

6. Dresses and skirts are often comfier

When walking several miles a day, dresses and skirts are often very comfortable options. They allow for nice air flow and let your body breathe more. For more comfort, wear a pair of shorts under them.





7. Always bring sunglasses

I am convinced the sun shines brighter overseas; sunglasses are a must. When sightseeing, they will help you see the wonderful views better while protecting your eyes.



8. Hats on the other hand...

The Mediterranean is very windy, and hats are not always the best idea. They tend to fly off, especially if you are on a boat. If you are going to bring a hat, make sure it has a string around the neck to stay on better.



9. Don't bring expensive jewelry

With all the moving around, it becomes very easy to lose small items like jewelry. Do not bring anything too special or expensive like real gold or a family heirloom – it is not worth the risk. Instead, buy some cheaper jewelry from Target that you won't be too upset if you lose.

10. Sunscreen and water!

These two are not fashion related but are necessities for traveling. You cannot bring too much sunscreen; it is much easier to burn in the Mediterranean since the sun is more intense. Make sure to bring at least 30 SPF. With the intense sunshine, it is also important to stay hydrated. Bring a reusable water bottle that you can fill up when needed.

Traveling internationally can be scary for the first time, but even with just ten useful tips you will feel more prepared. Stay fashionable, and happy travels!

The History of Traveling

Bella Merry

When people think about the origins of travel, figures like Christopher Columbus or Marco Polo often come to mind. But in reality, travel began long before these explorers set out on their journeys.

The earliest travelers for pleasure were the ancient Romans. Wealthy Romans frequently spent their summers in countryside villas, made possible by one of their greatest innovations: roads. Beyond relaxation, travel was also seen as a path to education. Romans believed that experiencing other cultures—through their art, architecture, and languages—was one of the best ways to learn.

During the Middle Ages, travel extended beyond the wealthy elite. Many from the middle and lower classes traveled primarily for religious purposes, undertaking pilgrimages to sacred sites both within their own countries and across Europe.



By the 17th century, a new tradition emerged among the wealthy. Young aristocrats embarked on what became known as the “Grand Tour,” a long educational journey to major cultural centers such as London, Paris, Rome, and Venice. These trips were designed to enrich their understanding of history, art, and architecture.

Before the invention of railways, travel was limited to foot or water routes, which made long-distance journeys slow and difficult. The construction of an extensive railway network in the mid-1800s revolutionized tourism. Around this time, the first travel agencies were also established, making organized travel more widely available.

After World War II, air travel became accessible to the general public. Tourism surged, reshaping itself into the global industry we recognize today. The rise of new technologies such as the internet and mobile phones has since made planning and experiencing travel easier than ever before.

While modern travelers may journey for countless reasons—leisure, business, adventure, or personal growth—many still seek what the Romans once did: the chance to learn, explore, and connect with the history and culture of a place.



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CHANEL



LONDON



Houses
of Parliament



Meet the Models



Nate

Hello, my name is Nathanael Elverton, and I'm a first-year fashion major. I'm from Hammond, Indiana, but I moved to Erie in 2019. I first got into fashion when I was younger and would see and play with my cousins' Bratz and Monster High fashion dolls. I thought they were so cool, and my interest in fashion just evolved from there. In terms of travel, I've always wanted to go to London because I think it's beautiful. When I first heard about Statement Magazine, I really wanted to be a model in it, so I'm happy the opportunity actually came. This photoshoot was so fun, and the creativity of the team we worked with was very inspiring.

Yadi

My name is Yadielys Bayala. I am originally from Puerto Rico, but I moved to Erie in elementary school. I am currently a first-year student and am studying Fashion Merchandising. One of my dream travel spots is South Korea! It just looks like something completely different than what I'm used to, and I would love to visit, try their food, and just explore! I have always been into fashion for as long as I can remember. When I was young, I used to draw my own designs and show them off to everyone; I've always just wanted to stand out and experiment with my looks. I got a sewing machine in my first year of high school, and that same year I got into knitting and crocheting. Fashion is like a comfort to me: my style is mine, your style is yours, but we can all collectively come together and just talk about fashion as a whole. This shoot is something that I will forever hold close to my heart. I have never thought about even modeling before, and this was just something so surreal. I enjoyed every second of it and would do it all over again if I got the chance.









Overwhelmed by Travel Planning?

Here's How to Handle the Pressure

Amara Ventura

The Pre-Trip Panic Is Real

As someone who stresses easily, my planner is basically my lifeline. I love anything involving lists, color-coding, or sticky notes. But let's be real: sometimes opening that planner and seeing 14 different colors and 20 to-dos staring back at you feels a little overwhelming. As my departure for studying abroad in Rome comes in less than a week, here's what I've learned so far.

You can't control everything. And honestly, you shouldn't try. Focus on what you can handle, and let the rest unfold. I know, it sounds cliché, but that really is what's grounding me as I prepare for one of the biggest adventures of my life.

My Secret Weapon: Research

Since I've never left the country before, I started with basics. Duolingo for learning a little Italian. TikTok for hidden gems and travel hacks, Pinterest for outfit inspiration and dreamy mood boards. If there was a way to help prepare myself or get ideas, I was on it. And here's my advice to anyone else stressing about travel: remind yourself that this is supposed to be fun. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to grow, explore, and live in the moment, so let yourself not have all the answers and use it as a chance to learn and try new things!



Outfit Inspo From Pinterest

Planning Without Losing the Fun

Once you have figured out what you value in your trip, planning feels less like a stressor and will become easier and exciting. For me, that started with:

- A shared Google calendar with my travel friends for trips and deadlines.
- Saving money all summer from two jobs.
- Budgeting based on what's most important to me in each location.

For example, in Barcelona for Halloween weekend, my top spending priorities are travel, clubbing, and shopping. That means I'll enjoy the landmarks from the outdoors (free!), and find a cool beach town and walk around to skip the expensive tours or boat rides. Meanwhile in Rome, my "home base," I'm setting aside money for museums, local restaurants, and fun boutiques. I even made an Excel sheet for each city, to track my spendings and maintain my budget, must-sees, restaurants, shops, you name it. Will I follow it perfectly? Probably not. But it's nice to know what you value and have a plan.

Packing Like a Pro (Or at Least Trying To)

Fall in Italy means mid-50s to mid-70s weather—plus lots of walking. Every TikTok I've watched says the same thing: pack light. As someone with the goal to work in fashion marketing, I'm so excited to study style in real life: stepping into luxury flagships like Gucci, Prada, and Valentino, taking note of window displays, store layouts, and marketing techniques. Do Italians rely on glossy billboards, chic print ads, or just the pull of iconic store-fronts? I want to see how their approach differs from the U.S. and if it's more inviting, simplistic, and targeted to more niche categories. Hopefully I'll even level up my own style in the process. So, my suitcase is simple: a mix of versatile basics, statement pieces, comfy walking shoes, and space for future finds.

Here's what's coming with me:

- Bottoms: 1 long flowy skirt, 1 gingham mini skirt, 3 jeans, 2 linen pants, 2 denim shorts, 2 comfy shorts, 1 pair of fun yellow shorts.
- Tops: 6 going out/dinner tops, 6 basics (short + long sleeve), 2 sweaters, 1 leather jacket.
- Shoes: Nike Zoom Vomero 5s (comfy and cute), one pair of wedge sandals, and hopefully a pair of black leather boots I'll buy there.

The goal: blend in, respect local culture, and add a touch of me.



Why I'm Saying Yes to Every Adventure

I can't wait to draw inspiration from Italian culture and discover new ways to approach different types of consumers. Even something as simple as observing people in the streets, their mannerisms, outfits, and hospitality, feels like a lesson in itself. There's a whole world waiting for me, and I'm ready to capture it all through scrapbooking, journaling, collecting postcards, and soaking in every memory. More than anything, I'm excited to grow in confidence, individuality, and my understanding of fashion, marketing, and culture. This has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember, and I hope to return more confident, knowledgeable, and connected—not only to my ancestors and Italian culture, but also to life in one of the most stylish and historic cities in the world. If you want to follow along (or need travel tips for your own trip), check out our TikTok @italyladies-abroad. My friend Kayleiana and I will be sharing the real, messy, and magical moments from Italy—with plenty of fashion hauls along the way.

A Pilot's Backstory

Rachel Ahrens



Flying over Erie

The cover photos for this edition of STATEMENT would not have been possible without my dad, who has become Mercyhurst Fashion's (honorary) resident private pilot! This issue has been so exciting and fulfilling to put together, largely due to the incredible cover shoot we were able to do because of Mike Ahrens and North Coast Air.

My dad is one of the most well-traveled people I know. Though now retired, 40 years of work-based travel allowed him to experience 16 countries, 42 states, and 1 million driven miles. When I asked him how many miles he thinks he has flown, he wasn't able to answer – that number is also easily in the millions. To put it in perspective, he estimates he's taken 500 commercial flights, many of them repeat international trips to Japan and Germany for business.

Along with those two countries, his travels have included favorites such as Switzerland, Austria, Northern Italy, Ireland, noting food and scenery as the best parts. When asked about domestic travels, Mike noted that "The U.S. is so diverse. People, geography, culture ... We all tend to think that everybody lives the life that we live. It's always interesting to see something different – the different scenery, what other people's daily life must look like, different than yours." A recent cross-country road trip, spanning from Pennsylvania to California, showed this to him in real time.



My first flight!

Mike's love for travel has extended past his career into retirement. He holds a private pilot's license, something that came about because once he retired, he was "looking for something to do that was interesting and challenging." He also cited his love for travel and his desire to have a mode of transportation to visit relatives that are spread out across the country. His journey to becoming licensed nearly started in his mid-twenties when he moved to Erie from New Jersey for work. At the time, he considered getting a pilot's license, but got into cars instead of flying, mentioning that "it was only one or the other." His interest in the topic was rekindled in the summer of 2021, when he took a discovery flight through Fundamentals Flight Training in Erie. On this flight, the prospective student goes up with an instructor who has control of the plane. Once cruising altitude is reached, the passenger is able to perform a few minor functions, with the instructor landing the plane after.



Ireland, 2025



Japan, circa 1995

After completing this flight, Mike realized that while he was very interested in becoming licensed, he wasn't able to see the way he should. The following year brought three different eye surgeries for varying complications that would hinder his ability to fly a plane. In between recoveries, he was devoted to studying bookwork so that he could get up in the sky as soon as possible. The real lessons began in August of 2022 and spanned seven months. After passing three different tests to become officially licensed in March 2023, Mike purchased a Tecnam Gran Lusso (nicknamed Jeff, after the band Jefferson Airplane), the aircraft that later became our stationary cover model.

Being able to use Jeff for the cover of STATEMENT was incredibly exciting! The other editors and I were thrilled to put this together because it was a fun change from the shoots we typically do. Going behind the gates and shooting near the hangars felt like such a unique experience that sparked our creativity for the rest of the issue. The outfits and props truly just came together once we realized we would be able to use the plane, and we couldn't be happier with the result.

Thank you, Mike and Jeff, for your contributions to this issue of STATEMENT!



Not mentioned -- Mike's racing era

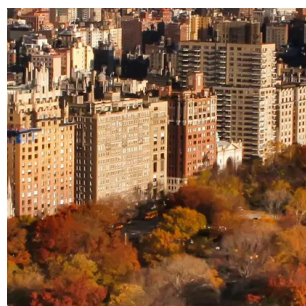
The 10 Best Fall Travel Spots in North America

Madison Spencer

Have you been eager to plan your next trip but don't know when or where you want to go? Fall is one of the most beautiful times of the year, making it the perfect season to explore new places. There are countless destinations worldwide that showcase the wonderful aspects of the fall season. If you're not quite ready to cross the pond and travel internationally, there are plenty of getaways you could take right here in North America. These are the 10 best places in North America for fall travel based on scenery, attractions, and overall ambiance.

1. Salem, Massachusetts

Salem is one of the most popular cities to visit in the fall, specifically in October. It is a historical city, famously known for the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. Extremely popular with Halloween lovers, it offers many bewitching historical attractions such as the Salem Witch Trials Memorial, the Peabody Essex Museum, the Witch House, and countless tours and events. Whether you're a Halloween enthusiast, a history buff, or even just a foodie, you will never be bored on a fall trip to Salem.



2. New York City, New York

With endless happenings, the Big Apple is the perfect place to take a fall trip if you want a city vibe. NYC offers a range that allows you to browse the galleries of The Met, take a stroll in Central Park among the changing leaves, and catch a Broadway show all in one day. The heat and humidity of the city subside in the fall, leaving you with the perfect weather to explore before snow falls and crowds rush in for the holidays. If you're looking for a fun-filled, action-packed fall weekend getaway, New York City is the ultimate spot.

3. Finger Lakes, New York

Located in Upstate New York, the Finger Lakes will give you that cozy, welcoming fall feeling we all love. Take your pick from various pumpkin patches, apple orchards, and fall festivals, while taking in the alluring foliage. The Finger Lakes are well known for their wineries, state parks, and miles of scenic roads inviting you right into their endearing small towns. Wash everything down with some homemade apple cider, and you'll feel as though you just stepped out of a Hallmark movie.



4. Yosemite National Park, California

This contains: Colorful autumn trees edge a busy Asheville street with shops, as golden sunlight and mist highlight distant blue hills under a glowing sunrise sky. If you're more of the adventurous type, Yosemite National Park may be a top pick. Bring your tent or RV to one of the park's 13 campgrounds and immerse yourself in nature for a quick off-the-grid expedition. With cooler temperatures and fewer crowds, mid-October to early November are the best times to see the landscapes at their peak, with golden fall colors. Take a hike, climb a waterfall, and enjoy the outdoors.

5. Asheville, North Carolina

Because of the area's expansive elevation changes, Asheville is a hot commodity in the fall for its remarkable foliage. If you're torn on whether to take a city trip or a mountain trip, why choose? It's an ideal mix of both, from which you can start your day with a trail run through the colorful trees and end it at one of its many comedy shows or music venues. Whether you are a social butterfly who thrives in city life or someone who enjoys the solitude of the mountains, Asheville has something for everyone.



6. Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Fall is one of the most ideal times to visit Rocky Mountain National Park in northern Colorado. Take a hike on one of the many trails and catch some great views of the renowned aspens at their peak golden state. If you're lucky, you may spot the native elk population that relocates to the plains in the fall for their mating season. Appreciate the crisp, cool air while fishing, wildlife viewing, or simply relaxing with friends, and catch the first sight of snow on the ridge of the Continental Divide.



7. Great Smoky Mountains, Tennessee

Get lost in the hills of Tennessee while enjoying a nice scenic drive and viewing the spirited wildlife. On a trip to the Great Smoky Mountains, you can catch the bright autumn leaves almost any time from September to November as they travel down with the elevation changes. With warm days and cool evenings, you can spend your days outside exploring and spend your nights cozied up by the fire. If you're looking to go out on the town, Gatlinburg offers a wide variety of shops, restaurants, and events to keep you busy.

8. Napa Valley, California

Harvest season is one of the best times to visit the wine country of Napa Valley. If you're planning a chic girls' trip, this may be the perfect destination. Wine tastings, gourmet meals, and the most picture-perfect vineyards accented by the fall scenery; what more could you ask for? Fun-filled harvest season takes place throughout the entire fall season, celebrating the newest crop of grapes with an abundance of winery parties and events. Napa Valley will have you set for a good time and an aesthetic Instagram post.

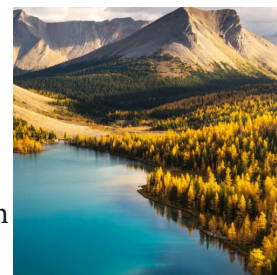


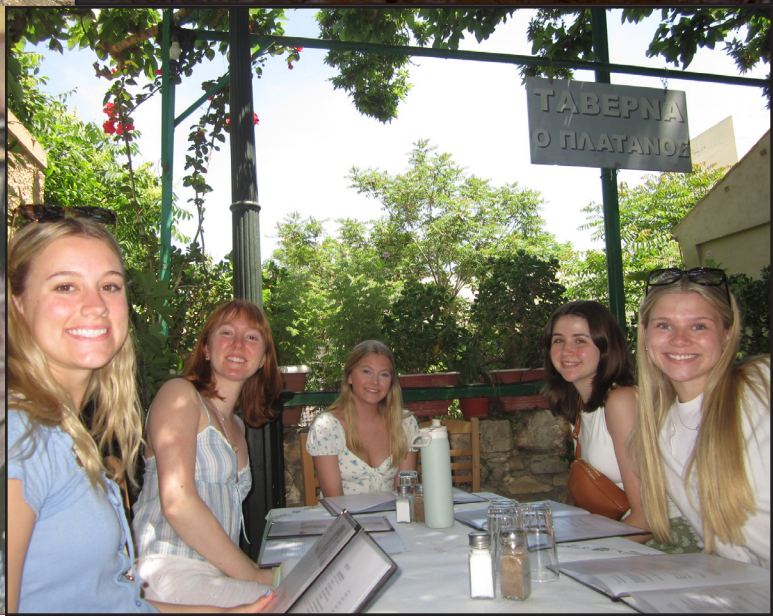
9. Montreal, Quebec

Explore the historic sites of Old Montreal, including the Notre-Dame Basilica, Château Ramezay, and the Bonsecours Market. If you're feeling sporty, bundle up and check out a Canadiens hockey game. Although Montreal is a breathtaking historical city, do not underestimate its vibrant nightlife. Take your pick from one (or more) of Montreal's many pubs, cocktail lounges, or clubs to relax or dance the night away. Although French is the official language of Quebec, don't let that deter you from a visit, as the city is very welcoming, whether it's a "bonjour" or a simple "hello."

10. Banff National Park, Alberta

Fall in Banff offers vibrant foliage, crisp air, and even potential snow. It's a wonderful time to go hiking and take in the golden larches, amber aspens, and glacial lakes before they freeze over. With fewer crowds than in summer, stroll around downtown Banff and pay a visit to the shops, restaurants, art galleries, and museums. Why choose between a mountainous hiking trip with awe-inspiring views and a sociable city outing, when you can have both?







People who hate travel scare me.

Travel is the most freeing and empowering thing someone can do. Physically displacing yourself from the ordinary is exactly what we were designed to do. Think of how we develop our cities, how we live our lives.

Traveling is what makes us human.

We live in a time of incomprehensible advancement. Specifically, air travel is the best it has probably ever been. Yet, people seem to hate it.

I have no qualification to make such claims, but it's because I think it's rooted in personal approach.

Let's start with some fundamental tenets of personal style:

Look good, feel good, do good.

We have all heard this. And it is universally believed to be true. If you look good, you feel good, and therefore, you can perform at heightened abilities not possible without adequate dress.

This should carry into how we conduct ourselves daily.

Then, tell me – why do people travel in their pajamas and sweatpants?





A Note on Jackets:

Trevor Kinnear

You don't look good. Maybe you feel *kinda* good, being "comfortable".

But will your poly-pants' softness save you in TSA? Mid-flight, when you so desperately need your AirPods to drown out some asshole screaming child?

"Oh, your collegiate grief has left you dowdy in sweatshirts; absolute horror!"

- Ezra Koenig, *Vampire Weekend*
"One (Blake's Got a New Face)"

People forget that travel is an experience, not just a nuisance blocking point A to point B.

I propose a new philosophy – and one that I can't believe isn't more universally accepted:

Treat travel as part of the journey.

Let's circle back to our core tenet – *look good, feel good, do good*.

I'm not advocating for full suit and tie – unlike some other fashion talking heads.

Rather, a utilitarian approach. In days of old – when travel was far more dangerous and taxing – specialized garments were made to make the journey all the easier.

In modern times, the only thing you need, truly, is ***big ass pockets***.

Get a chore coat, a surplus jungle jacket – hell, even a sportcoat if it pleases you. But you need to make sure it has big pockets.

Because think about it- what are the two most uncomfortable parts of traveling?

TSA security checkpoints and mid-flight item retrieval.

Big pockets, patch pockets allow you to quickly store and retrieve items with ease. Whether you're standing in line at a Hudson Bookstore or strapped in your seat, you can quickly and easily grab pretty much anything you need- no digging through your bag required.

God forbid you put something in the overhead bin ...

Need to ditch your watch, your belt, your phone, your passport, your rings, your AirPods, your wallet – all just to go through TSA?

Right into the jacket pockets they go. Jacket comes off, goes through the scanner – you grab it, and you can reassemble yourself as you walk.

It is intuitive and has revolutionized my travel ergonomics.

And you like flying, as a bonus.





In summary – if your jacket pockets can't fit a liter of Smart Water, you're doing air travel all wrong.

Wander Without a Trace

Kayleiana Rhodes

When organizing all our fun trips, we have to remember the environmental impact we're making. Sustainability in travel is sometimes overlooked, but there are some simple changes we can make in our travels that, added together, will make a big impact on the environment. Here are just a few:

Consider Your Mode of Transportation

Before starting your day, think about the options you have for getting to all the places and sights you want to visit. For long-distance travel, consider booking a direct flight in economy class. This reduces your carbon footprint. If your destination is mid-range, try taking a train or bus instead of driving. This limits the number of individual vehicles putting pollution into the air. For short trips, consider walking, biking, or skateboarding. These options are very environmentally friendly.

Use Eco-Friendly Routes on Maps

Many map apps offer this feature. It finds the best route that is fuel and/or energy efficient for your trip. It might not be the fastest route, but it minimizes your fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

Utilize Reusable Items

This helps reduce the waste you leave behind on your journey. Just a few examples of some reusable items are refillable shampoo and conditioner bottles, reusable (non-plastic) water bottles, and cloth bags/totes.

Since this is a fashion magazine, of course we must mention being mindful of what you pack.

Pack Clothes That Will Come Back With You

I know trying to save space in your suitcase is a priority, but pack clothes that you intend on bringing home with you. It can be tempting to buy clothing items from fast fashion sites like Temu or Shein- wear them once or twice then toss them to save space for souvenirs. However, those clothes you leave behind will most likely end up in landfills, taking decades (or longer) to decompose and polluting the lovely place you just visited. Pack with intention.

Keeping these simple tips in mind when you travel can help make a real difference for our planet. Keep exploring, but make sure you wander without a trace!



Landfill in France full of clothing and plastics.





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*Mercyhurst University
Fashion Merchandising*